United Nations A/64/80–E/2009/79

General Assembly
Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
18 May 2009

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-fourth session
Item 57 (a) of the preliminary list*
Groups of countries in special situations: Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Economic and Social Council
Substantive session of 2009
Geneva, 6-31 July 2009
Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda**
Implementation of and follow-up to major international United Nations conferences and summits: review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/227 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/31, in which the Secretary-General was requested to submit an analytical and results-oriented progress report on the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, including a report on the substantive, organizational and logistical preparations for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

* A/64/50.
** E/2009/100.

09-34109 (E) 190609

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 63/227 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/31, in which the Secretary-General was requested to submit a report on progress in implementing the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (A/CONF.191/13, chap. II), adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels in May 2001 (hereinafter referred to as the "Brussels Programme").

2. The second section of the report examines the nature of the impact of the ongoing financial and economic crises on the least developed countries. The third section provides a brief overview of the progress made towards the international goals and targets contained in the Brussels Programme. It also identifies some of the probable effects of the crises in each of those areas. A fifth section of the report describes preparations for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

3. In some of the areas addressed by the Brussels Programme, results are quantifiable. The country-by-country data in the statistical annex (tables 1-16) to the present report show the large variations among the least developed countries, both in the absolute levels of many of the variables concerned and in progress made since the adoption of the Programme.

4. The present report was prepared with the cooperation of all United Nations system organizations. Their contributions to this process will be made available separately.

II. The global crises and the least developed countries

5. A sequence of global economic crises has combined to present a major threat to the development of the least developed countries. At the time of last year's report, the development successes of those countries were being overshadowed by the food and energy crises. A sustained increase in oil prices (see annex, table 1), particularly the spike in 2008, caused oil-importing least developed countries to suffer a mixture of higher inflation and reduced growth. It also added to fiscal pressures and balance-of-payments difficulties and resulted in currency depreciation in several countries.

6. International food prices also escalated rapidly in 2008. These increases were transmitted, at least in part, to domestic markets in most of the least developed countries. Many of the least developed countries are net food-importing countries and, because there is a larger proportion of poor and malnourished people in those countries, the human impact of an increase in food prices is greater than elsewhere. Of the 36 countries and areas classified by the World Food Programme (WFP) in 2008 as being most at risk from higher food prices, 24 were among the least developed countries (see annex, table 2). The countries most affected by the escalation in prices were those where more than 30 per cent of the population was already undernourished.

7. Higher food prices have negative consequences for consumers but raise the incomes of farmers and encourage them to produce more food. However, efforts to increase food production in the least developed countries in 2008 were dampened by

higher prices for fertilizer, energy and seeds, the increase in prices for the first two items being an outcome of the energy crisis. Low-income farmers, particularly those producing only a subsistence level of output and with neither savings nor ready access to credit, were prevented from responding to the incentive of higher prices for their output by their inability to acquire the necessary inputs.

8. Since the middle of 2008, food prices have declined rapidly but have not returned to their pre-crisis levels; in March 2009, the international prices of rice and grains were about 50 per cent higher than three years previously.[1] Moreover, retail prices in many domestic markets have not fallen at the same rate as international prices. Nevertheless, the easing of food prices has reversed, but not completely removed, the previous negative effects of higher prices on consumers and on poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

9. Meanwhile, a financial crisis in the world's largest economy has mutated into, initially, a slowdown in the developed countries and, subsequently, a global economic crisis and a development crisis, particularly for the least developed countries. The impact of each of these crises on the least developed countries has differed slightly, but each has underlined the vulnerability of such countries to developments outside their borders. Both the immediate economic situation of the least developed countries and their longer-term development prospects have deteriorated markedly for reasons not of their making. Because of the usual lags in the data, and particularly since the overall crisis is still unfolding, a comprehensive quantitative assessment of the impact of the crisis on the least developed countries is not yet available, but the effects of the crisis are being transmitted through a number of channels.

10. The initial financial crisis in a few developed countries had a limited impact on and consequences for the least developed countries because of their nascent financial systems and their weak financial linkages with the rest of the world. The least developed countries are still mainly cash economies, with limited banking systems. Moreover, their banks are less integrated into the international financial system, particularly into the private sector capital and bond markets, where the turmoil was greatest. On the other hand, most of the least developed countries use trade finance, and this was extensively affected by the crisis. Moreover, while many of the least developed countries had strengthened their domestic banking systems in recent years, which increased their resilience to modest, first-round shocks, a lengthy or severe crisis could create difficulties.

11. The least developed countries also remained relatively unscathed in the initial phases of the ensuing global economic slowdown because of their limited involvement in trade in manufactures. Until 2008, oil- and commodity-exporting least developed countries received a substantial boost from the escalation in the prices of those goods. The commodity boom was widely expected to continue, but the recession in the developed countries is affecting the least developed countries through the reduction in the demand for their exports. According to the International Monetary Fund, world trade volume will decline by 11 per cent in 2009. This will adversely affect the development of the least developed countries. In addition, as the economic slowdown has migrated from the developed to the more advanced

[1] See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Food Price Indices (available at www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/foodpricesindex/en), accessed on 13 April 2009.

developing countries and as the decline in demand for manufactures has been translated into reduced demand for energy and raw materials, the prices of oil and commodities have declined precipitously. The drying up of credit, including trade finance, is having a further impact on the trade performance of the least developed countries. Just as their sound export performance contributed significantly to improved growth in the least developed countries in recent years, reduced export earnings are leading to widening current account deficits, depletion of international reserves, currency depreciation and reduced economic growth.

12. In a few of the least developed countries, as part of their efforts to diversify their economies, tourism has been developed into an important source of foreign revenue and domestic employment. However, tourism is sensitive to changes in incomes, particularly in the developed countries, and is therefore likely to be seriously adversely affected by the economic crisis. Evidence shows that the tourism sector in several of the least developed countries has already been adversely affected by the global economic and financial crisis.

13. Foreign direct investment (FDI) is serving as another channel for transmission of the global crisis to the least developed countries. With lower commodity prices, including for oil, more limited access to financing and the overall economic slowdown, global FDI flows are likely to decline, and competition for such investment among countries is likely to intensify. In the least developed countries, the oil and mineral sectors, having previously been the major beneficiary of FDI inflows, are likely to be the most affected.

14. Inflows of remittances from migrant workers from the least developed countries in other countries have become an important source of development finance for their home countries and of general income for their families. For the least developed countries as a group, recorded inflows of remittances exceed official development assistance (ODA) (see annex, table 3); informal transfers probably add considerably to this amount. For a handful of the least developed countries, remittances from workers have become a larger source of foreign exchange earnings than exports; in a few cases, they are equivalent to as much as a quarter of gross domestic product (GDP).

15. The large, worldwide job reductions, particularly for semi- and low-skilled workers, are reducing demand for migrant labour. More restrictive immigration policies in some developed and developing countries are also contributing to this. Often with limited social protection in their countries of work, some migrants have already returned home after becoming unemployed, adding to the number of jobless in their own countries.

16. At the early stage of the downturn in the developed countries, remittances were more resilient than other financial flows, but anecdotal evidence suggests that the flow of remittances has declined substantially, despite the desire of migrants to maintain or increase transfers to their families during a time of crisis. This potential decrease could cause severe hardships for poor households that depend on remittances for their livelihood.

17. Most of the least developed countries, except the oil-exporting countries, rely heavily on ODA to fill their external resource gaps. ODA also funds a large part of the fiscal deficit in most cases. Higher ODA flows in recent years have enabled the least developed countries to increase investments in health, education and social

protection. Faced with the need to finance large fiscal deficits in their own countries, most developed countries are under intense budgetary pressure during the economic crisis. Despite universal recognition of the need to maintain and increase ODA flows, there is a risk that such assistance to the least developed countries may be reduced during the crisis. This will set back progress by those countries towards the Millennium Development Goals and towards the targets of the Brussels Programme.

18. Improved macroeconomic management in the least developed countries initially contributed to reducing the effects of the initial phases of the sequence of external crises. Most of the least developed countries had improved their fiscal situations and had fiscal deficits that were relatively small. Many commodity-exporting least developed countries had refrained from spending all their gains in public revenue when commodity prices rose; some had established stabilization funds and several, particularly the oil-producing countries, had accumulated large foreign exchange reserves. Such precautionary measures initially enabled some of the least developed countries to avoid making sudden cutbacks in public expenditures when commodity prices and fiscal receipts fell.

19. With the deepening of the crisis, the least developed countries would like to be able to emulate the example of the developed countries by easing monetary policy and adopting counter-cyclical fiscal measures. However, the least developed countries have less scope for monetary and fiscal measures than most other countries, and such measures are likely to be less effective than elsewhere. External pressures require the least developed countries to be prudent in both areas. Furthermore, narrow domestic financial markets limit the scope and effectiveness of monetary policy changes, while fiscal policy has less impact because Government revenues and expenditures make up lower proportions of GDP. In particular, automatic stabilizers are unlikely to play such a significant role; to the contrary, there is a risk that fiscal outcomes will exacerbate the situation. For example, many of the least developed countries are more reliant than other countries on taxes on international trade. The collapse of export earnings has reduced Government revenues and may require Government expenditures to be cut at a time when the need is for them to be increased.

20. The global downturn is putting the hard-won progress towards fiscal sustainability in jeopardy from both the revenue and expenditure sides. With high levels of public debt in many cases, limited domestic financial markets and restricted access to international capital markets, the Governments of the least developed countries have limited ability to finance through borrowing the increase in expenditure required to meet the Brussels Programme commitments and the Millennium Development Goals.

21. There is a very high risk that much of the hard-won progress in implementing the Brussels Programme and working towards the Millennium Development Goals will be lost for reasons beyond the control of the countries themselves. As a manifestation of its support of the least developed countries, it is incumbent on the international community to ensure that this does not occur.

22. As an important step in this direction, the leaders of the Group of 20, at their meeting on 2 April 2009, agreed to provide $50 billion to support social protection, boost trade and safeguard development in low-income countries and to provide $6 billion of additional concessional and flexible finance for the poorest countries

over the following two to three years. Measures for social protection in the poorest countries would include investing in long-term food security and providing additional resources through the World Bank.[2]

23. At its meeting on 26 April 2009, the World Bank/IMF Development Committee recognized the need to translate those commitments and others into concerted action and additional resources. It urged all donors not only to accelerate delivery of increased aid commitments but also to consider going beyond existing commitments.

24. The international financial institutions are playing a central role in this process. The World Bank has expanded its Global Trade Finance Programme and launched two new facilities: the Vulnerability Financing Facility and a Global Trade Liquidity Programme. It has also established an Infrastructure Recovery and Assets Platform. The IMF has agreed to double the borrowing limits under its Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility and its Exogenous Shocks Facility to help low-income countries severely affected by the global economic downturn. It is also discussing raising additional resources for concessional lending to low-income countries over the medium term.

III. Implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action

Commitment 1
Fostering a people-centred policy framework

25. From 2004 to 2007, the least developed countries as a group achieved an average growth rate of 7 per cent annually (see annex, table 4). In 2008, growth decelerated to 6.4 per cent but nevertheless remained better than the aggregate for all other developing countries. The global crisis is expected to cause growth in the least developed countries to fall even more in 2009.

26. Divergence in growth among the least developed countries remains pronounced and is mirrored in most other economic and social indicators. Each year between 2004 and 2007, about a quarter of the least developed countries, mostly oil- or mineral-exporting countries, achieved annual growth of more than 7 per cent. In contrast with previous periods, there were few instances of countries experiencing an annual decline in output but there were several where growth was less than 3 per cent. In most cases, this was a consequence of political unrest or conflict.

27. Despite population growth of 2.4 per cent per annum, the average rate of growth of GDP per capita in the least developed countries exceeded 5 per cent during the middle years of the decade (see annex, table 4). In each year from 2005 to 2007, about half of the least developed countries increased per capita output by at least 3 per cent. There were, however, several instances of annual declines in per capita GDP, and this was not exclusively in countries suffering unrest.

28. The most recent data suggest that the impact of growth on poverty in the least developed countries was greater than previously surmised. In 2008, the World Bank issued a new series of internationally comparable poverty data, based on a new international poverty line of $1.25, measured in terms of 2005 purchasing power

[2] See http://www.g20.org/Documents/final-communique.pdf.

parity.[3] Data for about two thirds of the least developed countries confirm their continued high poverty rates but also show that progress, while limited, has been made in reducing poverty. Moreover, progress has accelerated. In the World Bank sample of least developed countries, the proportion of people living on less than $1.25 a day fell from 63 per cent in 1990 to 60 per cent in 1999 and, further, to 53 per cent in 2005 (see annex, table 4). Nevertheless, the reductions in poverty were small in relation to the magnitude of the problem. In 2005, the poverty rate was more than 30 per cent in 32 of the 36 least developed countries for which the World Bank had estimates.

29. National poverty estimates are available for fewer countries but show a similar pattern for recent years. The favourable trend is almost universal across countries — the rate of extreme poverty declined in all but 3 of the 25 countries with data for both the 1990s and since 2000, and about two fifths of the sample had extreme poverty rates below 50 per cent in 2005, compared with one fifth in the 1990s (see annex, table 2). With the rapid growth of GDP per capita in 2006-2007, it may be assumed that there was a further reduction in poverty until the onset of the crises.

30. The World Bank estimates that higher food prices initially increased the number of people living in poverty worldwide by 200 million and that about half of those would remain in poverty in 2009 despite the moderation in food prices. The Bank further estimates that, because of the global economic slowdown, the number of people living in extreme poverty would be 55 million to 90 million more than expected before the crisis.[4] Since the least developed countries were among the hardest hit by the crisis, they would be expected to account for a disproportionately large number of these additional poor people.

31. Until 2007, malnutrition had declined in most of the least developed countries, but it remained pervasive in about one fifth of them. Within the general population, malnutrition remained acute among children under five years of age in more than one third of the least developed countries. The food crisis exacerbated this unacceptable situation considerably; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimated that higher food prices increased the number of chronically hungry people in the world by about 15 per cent (an additional 115 million) in 2007 and 2008, and it expects that the number will rise further in 2009. It must be expected that the relative increase in the least developed countries was greater than the global average. The global economic crisis is lowering incomes and reducing the food consumption of the poor, further increasing the number of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition.

Commitment 2
Good governance at the national and international levels

32. Most of the least developed countries have taken measures to promote democracy and improve governance. Elections that meet international standards are increasingly becoming the norm in the least developed countries. In several instances, there has been an increase in the proportion of seats held by women; in a number of the least developed countries, the female share exceeds 30 per cent, partially because of quotas for women.

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[3] See http://iresearch.worldbank.org/PovcalNet/jsp/index.jsp.

[4] World Bank, *Global Monitoring Report 2009* (Washington, D.C., 2009), p. 2.

33. Most of the least developed countries have taken measures to strengthen their ownership of the formulation and implementation of their development policies. The practice of adopting poverty reduction strategy papers was a preliminary step in this direction. With the second generation of such papers, the least developed countries began to exercise even greater ownership and leadership over their development strategies. An important feature of progress has been the increased involvement of non-State actors, including the private sector, non-governmental organizations and others.

34. Governance and ownership are also being strengthened through a number of multilateral initiatives. In accordance with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, many of the least developed countries have developed comprehensive national development strategies. In Africa, 24 least developed countries have joined the African Peer Review Mechanism of the New Partnership for Africa's Development. The African Peer Review Mechanism process involves the active participation of all stakeholders in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of a national programme of action. Six countries have completed all stages of the African Peer Review Mechanism and are implementing their programmes of action.

35. In 2007, a World Bank evaluation[5] showed that 23 out of a sample of 37 least developed countries had taken actions to develop an operational national development strategy, but only six countries had such a framework in place. It concluded that weak institutional and administrative capacities constrained the least developed countries from exercising effective ownership and leadership of their development programmes. Similarly, the 2008 survey by the Organization for European Cooperation and Development (OECD) monitoring the Paris Declaration showed that, although countries had taken measures to strengthen ownership of their development strategies, progress was slow. The Accra Agenda for Action (A/63/539, annex), a follow-up to the Paris Declaration, called for more efforts to strengthen country ownership by broadening country-level policy dialogue, strengthening the capacity of developing countries to lead and manage development and maximizing the use of the systems of developing countries.

36. Many of the least developed countries have adopted measures to eliminate corruption, including the establishment of autonomous and independent anti-corruption commissions. The 2008 Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index indicated that corruption was being reduced, albeit slowly, in many of the least developed countries. As part of this process and as indicated in last year's report, several of the least developed countries have signed the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, but only three have met the Initiative's first four validation indicators and are considered candidate countries for the Initiative.[6] None of the least developed countries is compliant with the Initiative yet.

Commitment 3
Building human and institutional capacities

37. Most of the least developed countries continue to make progress towards universal primary education, although enrolment has decreased in some of the least

[5] See World Bank, *Results-Based National Development Strategies: Assessment and Challenges Ahead* (Washington, D.C., 2007).

[6] See Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, Progress report 2007-2009, available at http://eitransparency.org.

developed countries where it was previously high (see annex, table 5). Progress in raising primary completion rates has been more modest. Some countries have achieved gender parity in primary education; in a few cases, there are now more girls than boys in primary school.

38. The number of children under the age of 15 in the least developed countries is forecast to increase by more than 50 million between 2008 and 2015. Most of the least developed countries therefore face a two-dimensional educational challenge of raising the enrolment ratio in a school-age population that is itself growing. In contrast, most other developing countries expect little or no growth in their under-15 population and are much closer to achieving, or have already achieved, universal primary education.

39. Secondary school enrolment rates are still well below 50 per cent in most of the least developed countries and are showing only small improvements. There are also wider gender disparities among countries in secondary education than there are in primary education, although in some countries there are more girls than boys in secondary school.

40. The economic crisis is likely to have an adverse impact on school enrolment. Lower family incomes will reduce the ability to meet any educational costs; they may also force families to take children out of school to supplement family earnings, either directly or indirectly. On the supply side, fiscal constraints may have a negative impact on public expenditures on education.

41. Progress in reducing mortality among infants and children under 5 years of age has been mixed, ranging from substantial improvements in a few countries to a marked deterioration in others (see annex, table 6). In sub-Saharan Africa, the proportion of children between the ages of 12 months and 23 months vaccinated against measles, a simple proven means of reducing childhood deaths, rose from 55 per cent in 2000 to 72 per cent in 2006.[7] On the negative side, HIV/AIDS is limiting progress in reducing under-5 mortality in some countries. Because of the impact of the crisis on health programmes, the World Bank estimates that between 200,000 and 400,000 more babies could die each year if the crisis persists; a significant proportion of these would be in the least developed countries.

42. The rate of maternal mortality varies widely among the least developed countries, ranging from 120 to 2,100 per 100,000 births (see annex, table 7). In most of the least developed countries, there remain high unmet needs for family planning, skilled care at birth and emergency obstetric care. The economic crisis is likely to result in an increase in maternal mortality because of higher malnutrition. Moreover, unless additional resources become available, public health services, including those for women, are likely to deteriorate because of fiscal pressures.

43. There has been some, but not universal, progress made in reducing HIV infections, but its prevalence in many of the least developed countries remains very high (see annex, table 8). In some countries, prevention is still not a priority, and efforts do not always match the scale and patterns of the epidemic. In contrast, access to treatment is increasing rapidly. With substantial international support, many of the least developed countries have been able to increase significantly the number of people receiving antiretroviral therapy. Nevertheless, there is still a large

[7] See United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2008* (New York, 2008), p. 21.

number of people, often a majority of those affected, without access to such therapy in many of the least developed countries. Antiretroviral therapy has increased the number of AIDS patients who are able to work and the hours they work, bringing economic and other benefits to their families. Encouragingly, experience in some countries has demonstrated that universal access to treatment is feasible if prevention keeps HIV prevalence low.

44. The increase in HIV/AIDS prevalence has raised the incidence of tuberculosis in several of the least developed countries (see annex, table 9); many of the least developed countries with the highest tuberculosis incidence rates also have high HIV/AIDS prevalence rates. Directly Observed Treatment Strategy programmes have improved the success of tuberculosis treatment, sometimes substantially, in a number of the least developed countries.

45. Malaria continues to account for a high proportion of childhood deaths in many of the least developed countries, but the increasingly widespread use of insecticide-treated nets is reducing the incidence of malaria in children.

46. The least developed countries have made advances in gender equality and the empowerment of women. An increasing number of the least developed countries have adopted gender goals in their national development plans. Progress is mixed, however, and greater efforts need to be made to promote equal access to education, health services, employment, productive assets and participation in political decision-making. The gender dimension should also be embodied in discussions on the effects of and responses to the crisis. Women are less able to cope with and overcome crises than men because they have less access to and control over resources and they experience gender-based vulnerabilities that are likely to become more acute in the crisis, including restricted legal benefits and protections, a lack of decision-making authority and limited control of financial resources.

Commitment 4
Building productive capacities to make globalization work for the least developed countries

47. Since 2000, most of the least developed countries have continued their broad economic reforms and have taken a variety of steps to increase domestic and foreign investment, including the provision of incentives to domestic and foreign investors. Reforms by the least developed countries have contributed to substantial and widespread progress in raising their investment rates. The ratio of gross fixed capital formation to GDP for the group as a whole rose from 16 per cent in 2000 to exceed the Brussels Programme target of 25 per cent by two percentage points in 2007 (see annex, table 10). The rate of investment in the oil-producing least developed countries increased substantially and also rose in all other individual least developed countries outside Africa, with the exception of two Pacific countries. Among the non-oil-exporting least developed countries in Africa, the rate rose in 14 countries and exceeded the target in 9, but it was in the single digits in 4 of those countries.

48. Part of the increase in the investment rate is attributable to FDI in the least developed countries, which increased by 150 per cent between 2000 and 2007 (see annex, table 3). Although concentrated in resource-rich countries, almost all of the least developed countries have succeeded in attracting increased FDI in recent years. These inflows have included investments from other developing countries.

49. The telecommunications and information technology sector has recorded rapid growth in most of the least developed countries (see annex, table 11). This sector has the advantage that it not only provides income and employment in the short term, but it also is an important element of the supporting infrastructure for business. In this instance, the digital revolution has enabled the least developed countries to leapfrog more advanced countries and avoid investing in land-based telephone systems and other obsolete technologies.

50. The service sector has been an important avenue for diversification in a number of the least developed countries. Some countries without mineral wealth have been able to exploit the advantages of their natural environment by developing the tourism sector. The number of visitors to the least developed countries jumped by almost 50 per cent between 2000 and 2005 and has since risen further. Although the least developed countries account for only about 1 per cent of total international tourism, it is one of the few sectors in which they have increased their share of world economic activity and it has served as the main engine for development in a number of them. As indicated above, however, the economic crisis is threatening this dynamic growth.

Commitment 5
Enhancing the role of trade in development

51. Although the least developed countries account for less than 1 per cent of world trade, international trade plays a major role in the development of the least developed countries, accounting for about 50 per cent of the GDP of the least developed countries as a group. In nominal terms, the value of merchandise exports from the least developed countries increased from $83.3 billion in 2005 to $128.5 billion in 2007, while imports increased from $87.9 billion to $101.4 billion during that same period, resulting in a positive trade balance. The rapid growth of export revenue has been due largely to higher prices for least developed country commodity exports (especially oil), while higher food and oil prices have contributed substantially to increasing import values.

52. Some least developed countries have made progress in diversifying their exports. Horticultural exports, including fresh flowers, plants, fruits and vegetables, have become an important source of export earnings for some least developed countries in sub-Saharan Africa; the same applies to textiles from some Asian least developed countries. Least developed countries have also increased their export earnings from fish and fishery products.

53. In many instances, least developed country exports benefit from preferential trading schemes, including the Everything but Arms initiative of the European Union and, for African least developed countries, the African Growth and Opportunity Act of the United States of America. Other developed countries also accord preferential treatment to the least developed countries. The proportion of total developed-country imports from the least developed countries admitted duty-free improved marginally in 2007 (see annex, table 12). This total has two components: tariffs reduced to zero under most-favoured-nation treatment and those reduced under "true" preferential treatment. Despite a small decline in 2007, more than 50 per cent of least developed country exports benefited from true preferential access, compared with only 35 per cent in 2000. The proportion of least developed

country exports entering duty-free under most-favoured-nation treatment has fallen since 2000, but rose slightly in 2007.

54. Within these averages, the situation differs widely among the least developed countries. African and island least developed countries have duty-free access for almost all their exports to developed countries, whereas only about two thirds of Asian least developed country exports enjoy duty-free access because of tariffs on textiles and clothing. The rapid growth of such exports after quotas were lifted in 2004 significantly reduced the global volume of duty-free imports.

55. It is not only the absolute levels of tariffs and preferences that are important for the least developed countries, but their relationship to the measures applied to other developing countries as well. In the case of textiles and clothing, the margin of preference of the least developed countries has been eroded and no longer provides a significant advantage. Clothing, the most labour-intensive manufactured product, remains subject to the highest tariffs (6.4 per cent on average) and provides the least developed countries with the lowest preference margin vis-à-vis other developing countries. Nevertheless, the preferential tariffs imposed on the agricultural exports of the least developed countries to developed countries fell further in 2007 and are now more than six percentage points less than those from other developing countries.

56. These indicators depict a best-case scenario, in which exporters utilize the available benefits. However, prerequisites such as eligibility criteria, non-tariff measures, restrictive rules of origin and administrative procedures make it difficult for the least developed countries to take full advantage of some of these trade preferences, with the result that the utilization rate is between only 80 and 90 per cent. In addition, least developed country exports continue to face non-tariff barriers in some areas, notably agricultural subsidies in developed countries. Some of the early stimulus measures adopted by other countries in response to the economic crisis incorporated additional protectionist elements.

57. The booming trade among developing countries that prevailed until the beginning of the crisis often meant that regional trade agreements offered least developed countries the best opportunities for diversifying and increasing their exports. Most least developed countries are members of one or more such agreements, which include non-least developed countries. However, multiple membership raises the possibility of conflicting international commitments, which individual least developed countries may have difficulty resolving.

Commitment 6
Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment

58. Their low level of development means that the least developed countries emit far less greenhouse gases per capita than other countries and therefore contribute the least to climate change.[8] Nevertheless, as with globalization, least developed countries are more vulnerable than other countries to the effects of climate change for several reasons. Firstly, many of them, such as small islands, low-lying coastal States and the least developed countries in sub-Saharan Africa, are expected to be

[8] Reflecting their low energy intensity, the least developed countries' share of cumulative greenhouse gas emissions between 1995 and 2005 (0.4 per cent) was even less than their share of GDP.

the most exposed to the anticipated consequences of global warming, such as a rise in sea level in some areas and drought in others. Secondly, this vulnerability will be increased because agriculture, the sector most affected by climate change, accounts for such a large proportion of their economies. Thirdly, as least developed countries, they have the least capacity to adapt to climate change. Reflecting this vulnerability, there are 15 least developed countries in the last 20 of 149 countries ranked according to various environmental indicators, including environmental health, air pollution, water resources and climate change.[9]

59. Climate change has already slowed development in some least developed countries. Strong weather patterns have resulted in flash floods, drought, tornadoes and other violent weather, adversely affecting the availability and price of food and development more generally. Rising sea levels are already affecting many island and coastal least developed countries. The agricultural sector, particularly in African least developed countries, has suffered from severe droughts and floods due to shifting rainfall patterns caused by climate change. This has worsened food insecurity, exacerbated poverty and led to serious social and economic dislocation in many countries. Climate change is already causing many people to migrate, either within their countries or abroad. According to some estimates, there will be up to 50 million environmentally displaced people by 2010, many of whom will originate from the least developed countries. Such movements, and the forces driving them, increase the risk of political instability and internal or cross-border conflict.

60. The imbalance between the minimal contribution of the least developed countries to climate change and the heavy toll it exacts on them justifies the application of the principle of common but differentiated responsibility under the Kyoto Protocol. The least developed countries must focus on adapting to climate change and reducing their vulnerability to its effects, rather than on trying to mitigate it.

61. Least developed countries, which are particularly vulnerable to some of the direct consequences of climate change, are already endeavouring to become more climate-resilient by reducing their exposure to the consequences of climate change and by increasing their capacity to deal with it. Recognizing the special needs of the least developed countries for funding and transfer of technology for these purposes, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change established the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group in 2001, with a view to providing technical guidance and advice to the least developed countries in the preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action. As at March 2009, 48 least developed countries had received funding to prepare such programmes and 39 had submitted such programmes to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

62. Resources to implement national adaptation programmes of action projects are scarce, however. It is estimated that at least $2 billion will be required to implement adaptation programmes over the next five years, but the Least Developed Countries Fund has raised only $172 million since its inception. Only three projects had been approved under adaptation programmes by March 2009. To date, the least developed countries have received almost no resources from the Clean Development

[9] See the 2008 Environmental Performance Index produced by Yale and Columbia Universities.

Mechanism. However, the Adaptation Fund, which is expected to raise funds from a levy on credits generated by the Mechanism, should make more resources available. Nevertheless, it is generally agreed that overall resources will fall far short of needs.

63. With sufficient resources and technology transfer, adapting to climate change can be turned into an opportunity to create a new approach to development based on sustainability. Applying improved agricultural practices, adopting clean technologies, enhancing energy efficiency and making modern and clean energy available to the poor would help to simultaneously fight climate change and promote development.

Commitment 7
Mobilizing financial resources

64. Domestic savings in the least developed countries increased from 13 per cent of GDP in 2000 to 21 per cent in 2007, but there were wide divergences within the group. The highest, and generally increasing, domestic savings rates were found in the oil- and mineral-exporting least developed countries, while savings rates declined in about half of the least developed countries; some countries had negative savings rates. Most least developed countries therefore continue to depend on external resources and, in some cases, on domestic consumption, to finance their development needs.

65. Since the adoption of the Brussels Programme, flows of ODA to the least developed countries have increased from less than $13 billion in 2001, to $30 billion in 2006 and to $32 billion in 2007. OECD estimates that total ODA increased by over 10 per cent in 2008; consequently, ODA to the least developed countries can be expected to have increased further. ODA to the least developed countries also grew as a percentage of the gross national income of the OECD countries, from 0.05 per cent in 1996-1997 to 0.09 per cent in 2007, but remained short of the Brussels Programme target of between 0.15 and 0.20 per cent. Within the total, only 8 of the 22 Development Assistance Committee countries met the target (see annex, table 13).

66. Two thirds of the least developed countries are in Africa. At the Gleneagles Summit in 2005, members of the Group of Eight (G-8) made a number of commitments to increase financial resources to Africa through a variety of means, including traditional development assistance, debt relief and innovative financing mechanisms. The G-8 undertook to increase ODA to Africa by $25 billion a year by 2010, more than doubling the level committed in 2004. According to OECD, ODA to Africa increased only from $35 billion in 2004 to $42 billion in 2008. With only two years to go, it remains far short of the target of $65 billion for 2010. In this regard, and to be consistent with their Gleneagles commitments, the G-8 countries must make substantial efforts to increase aid to Africa.

67. Donors are making efforts to increase the developmental impact of aid through the implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and are using seven indicators to measure progress. Following a review of a second round of monitoring of the Declaration by the Third High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, ministers and heads of development agencies adopted the Accra Agenda for Action in September 2008. The key thrusts of the Agenda are commitments by donors to provide advance information on their planned aid to partner countries, to use partner country systems to deliver aid, to use the developing countries' own development objectives as a framework for their assistance and to untie aid.

68. By May 2008, progress in Africa was greatest in donor coordination and the alignment of technical assistance with country programmes, while in Asia most progress was made in the untying of aid.[10]

69. A number of other developing countries are becoming an increasingly important source of external financial support for the least developed countries, particularly for the rehabilitation and development of critical infrastructure, such as roads and power. China, India and some oil-exporting developing countries are among those increasing their assistance.

70. Further progress has been made in reducing the burden of external debt on the least developed countries, mostly through the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative. Since the previous report of the Secretary-General, one more least developed country has reached the decision point and another the completion point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, but five remaining least developed countries have yet to reach the decision point. Measured in terms of net present value at end-2007, debt relief provided to the least developed countries under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative totals over $36 billion; more than a further $15 billion has been provided under the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (see annex, table 14).

71. As a result of debt relief and the rapid growth of exports, the debt service ratio for the least developed countries declined from 11.6 per cent in 2000 to 6.8 per cent in 2007. However, with the weakening of commodity prices and falling export revenues, debt service ratios for a number of least developed countries, including some of those who have reached their Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative completion point, are starting to deteriorate.

IV. Activities of the United Nations system relating to least developed countries

72. As in previous years, all entities in the United Nations system continued to give high priority to the least developed countries, individually and as a group. Quantitatively, expenditures by the United Nations system on operational activities in the least developed countries more than doubled between 2002 and 2007 (see annex, table 3). The least developed countries account for about one third of all such flows (see A/63/71-E/2008/46, figure X), but the proportion varies considerably by agency and, to a lesser extent, over time. For example, between 2002 and 2007, the proportion of WFP expenditures in the least developed countries ranged from 50 per cent to almost 70 per cent. Reflecting the priority attached to the least developed countries by the United Nations system, the 10 countries with the highest ratio of United Nations system expenditures to gross national income in 2006 were all least developed countries; in terms of expenditure per capita, 7 of the top 10 were least developed countries.

73. These activities took a wide variety of forms, from high-level policy advice to food aid delivered directly to the poor. Nevertheless, heavy emphasis was placed on physical and human capacity-building, provided through investment projects, advisory services and training in the wide-ranging areas of specialization of the

[10] OECD/DAC, *Development Co-operation Report 2008* (Paris, 2008).

respective agencies. Some agencies finance such activities from special funds or programmes for the least developed countries or for other country groups that include many of the least developed countries. Among these, the United Nations Capital Development Fund is unique as it operates exclusively in the least developed countries.

74. One notable vehicle for United Nations system support to the least developed countries is the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance. Since last year's report, the activities of the Framework have gained momentum. By March 2009, 45 countries were participating in the Framework; Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies and validation workshops had been completed for 30 countries and a further 13 countries were in the earlier stages of this process.

75. At the global policy level, and of particular relevance to the least developed countries because of their difficult food situation, in April 2008 the Secretary-General created a High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, comprising members of the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions and other relevant organizations. The comprehensive framework for action prepared by the Task Force identified options for tackling all aspects of food security, including food aid and nutrition, smallholder farming and agriculture, local and regional food markets and global trade. In December 2007, as part of its response to the crisis, FAO launched the Initiative on Soaring Food Prices with the immediate aim of rapidly increasing food production during the 2008 and 2009 agricultural seasons, mainly by supporting direct access to inputs for smallholders.

76. The Doha Declaration on Financing for Development (General Assembly resolution 63/239), adopted at the Follow-Up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, called upon developed countries that had not yet done so to make, in accordance with their commitments, additional concrete efforts towards the specific target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNP for ODA to least developed countries in line with the Brussels Programme. The Declaration also made several calls for special attention to be given to other needs of the least developed countries, notably in the area of international trade but also with respect to FDI and external debt.

V. Preparations for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

77. The General Assembly, in its resolution 63/227, decided to convene the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in 2011. It also decided to convene an intergovernmental preparatory committee and regional preparatory meetings to be preceded by broad-based and inclusive country-level preparations. The Assembly decided that the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States would be the focal point for the preparations for the Conference but also invited other United Nations system organizations, as well as the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and other relevant international and regional organizations, to provide support to the preparatory process and to the Conference itself. It called on resident coordinators and country teams to be fully involved in preparations for the Conference, in particular at the country and regional levels.

78. Tangible progress has been made in the preparations for the Conference on the basis of the Assembly's decisions. The Office of the High Representative has prepared a concept note to facilitate intergovernmental, regional and national preparations and to ensure the active involvement of all stakeholders in the preparatory activities. The concept note spells out the organizational approach, mandates and specific activities to be undertaken in the preparations for the Conference at the country, regional and global levels. It also highlights challenges facing the least developed countries, including high levels of poverty, lack of diversification and weak productive capacities, as well as threats posed by the converging food, energy and financial crises. A road map charts out the preparatory process leading to the Conference.

79. Particular attention has been given to ensuring that the main stakeholders, particularly the United Nations system and other international organizations, enjoy genuine ownership of the preparatory process. Thus, the concept note and the road map were presented to the first meeting of the inter-agency consultative group, convened by the Office of the High Representative in March 2008 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Senior officials from more than 30 United Nations system and international organizations participated in the meeting and consulted on the conceptual, substantive and organizational aspects of the Conference, as well as on their respective contributions to the preparatory process. The meeting also consulted on the organization of pre-conference events to be sponsored by the United Nations system and other international organizations.

80. The inter-agency meeting served to launch the system-wide preparations for the Conference. The objective of these preparations is to ensure that the Conference attains practical and operational outcomes that will contribute effectively to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals and targets pertaining to the least developed countries, including those stated in the Millennium Declaration. The inter-agency meeting endorsed the concept note and the road map.

81. Steps have also been taken for national and regional preparations. General guidelines have been prepared to assist the least developed countries in the organization of national reviews, including the preparation of national reports. In preparing for national reviews, efforts are being made to exploit synergies between the review of the implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the poverty reduction strategy paper, as well as between other country review mechanisms, such as UNDP round tables, World Bank consultative groups and others. The Office of the High Representative will undertake consultations and coordination with the United Nations Development Group to ensure that United Nations resident coordinators support Governments of the least developed countries in this regard. Consultations are also being undertaken by the Office with the regional commissions on the preparations and organization of two regional reviews, one for least developed countries in Africa and Haiti and another for those in Asia and the Pacific and Yemen.

82. The Office of the High Representative has been consulting with two potential host countries, Austria and Turkey, on the venue for the Conference. The Office has provided the respective Permanent Missions with information on the requirements for hosting a United Nations conference, as set out in the Guidelines for the Preparation of Host Government Agreements Falling under General Assembly Resolution 40/243 (ST/AI/342). In consultation with the potential host countries, the

Office has sought to underscore the expectations of the Least Developed Countries Group for the Conference, including high-level political commitments to the Conference and financial support for the participation of the least developed countries. In addition, the Least Developed Country Group and its Coordination Bureau have been informed about the preparations for the Conference.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

83. Prior to 2008, improved national development policies, a favourable international economic environment and strengthened support from the international community combined to produce a period of unprecedented progress in the least developed countries. However, the global crises seem destined to reverse many of several years' hard-won successes in a very short time. Moreover, for the least developed countries, the global recession is not a short-term phenomenon; by disrupting the continuity of their growth, it will also hamper their long-term development. Looking further ahead, climate change threatens dire problems for the least developed countries unless extensive preparations are made.

84. The first and immediate concern must be to mitigate the effects of the global recession on the least developed countries. Secondly, efforts are needed to make the least developed countries more resilient to the development shocks caused by their increased integration into the global economy that is required for their development. Thirdly, the least developed countries, supported by their development partners, need to integrate actions that will mitigate the anticipated effects of climate change into their national development strategies.

85. Although food prices have declined somewhat, hunger has become even more widespread. The international community should ensure that sufficient resources are available to provide food to the most vulnerable people in the least developed countries and other countries with food deficits.

86. The global food crisis highlighted the fact that the least developed countries face not only short-term but also potential long-term food shortage. The least developed countries and their development partners need to implement short-, medium- and long-term measures to address this challenge.[11,12] Particular attention should be given to research into varieties of crops that will be able to adapt to climate change in the most vulnerable countries.

87. The least developed countries have very little scope for mitigating the effects of the global recession on their economies and peoples without substantial additional external financial support. In the first instance, all development partners should honour all their existing commitments to increase their ODA, including those made at the G-8 Summit at Gleneagles in 2005, ensuring that they do not fall victim

[11] See, for example, last year's report of the Secretary-General on the Programme of Action (A/63/77-E/2008/61, paras. 81-86) and the report of the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis.

[12] The present report was prepared prior to the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which focused on Africa, agriculture, drought and desertification, land and rural development. The Commission's policy recommendations in each of these areas (to be included in the report of the session) are expected to contain additional recommendations relating to food.

to domestic budgetary pressures. Developing countries in a position to do so, such as oil-producing countries, should consider providing or expanding their support to the least developed countries.

88. In addition to this long-term development financing, the least developed countries require additional funding to avoid immediate economic hardship and massive human suffering. Development partners should respond by fully and promptly implementing the commitments they made at the most recent meetings of the Group of Twenty, the Development Committee and the International Monetary and Financial Committee.[13]

89. The recent sequence of crises underlines the fact that the various vulnerabilities of the least developed countries need to be given greater attention in development programmes, both by the least developed countries themselves and by their development partners. In most cases, this will require a diversification of their economies, which in turn will require investment in infrastructure and productive capacities. Governments of the least developed countries and their development partners should endeavour to sustain their long-term investment in infrastructure, but should continue to rely mainly on the private sector to identify and organize new investments in production facilities.

90. To encourage diversification in the least developed countries, all other countries, including other developing countries, should reduce trade barriers to exports from the least developed countries, including subsidies granted to their own exports and domestic production. In particular, they should ensure that efforts to address the economic crisis in their own countries do not involve the introduction of such measures. The most comprehensive way of achieving these goals would be a successful, development-oriented conclusion to the World Trade Organization Doha Round of trade negotiations.

91. Diversification will not be accomplished readily or quickly: through either choice or necessity, many least developed countries are likely to remain heavily commodity-dependent for some time. The least developed countries need to reduce their exposure to the volatility of primary commodity markets by enhancing arrangements to absorb the impact of short-term fluctuations in the domestic commodity sector itself, export earnings, Government revenue and in the economy as a whole.

92. Such measures are unlikely to completely eliminate the effects of commodity shocks and will be ineffective against generalized shocks, such as the present economic crisis. The least developed countries should use the experience of the present crises to lay the foundations for systems that will reduce the impact of future shocks on vulnerable groups.

93. The high rate of population growth in the least developed countries continues to intensify their development challenge, dilute achievements and increase vulnerability to shocks, particularly those such as the food crisis and climate change. The least developed countries should give increased attention to their commitment within the Brussels Programme (A/CONF.191/13, chap. II, para. 34) to making reproductive health accessible to all individuals of appropriate ages no later than 2015.

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[13] See http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DEVCOMMINT/NewsAndEvents/22157091/FinalCommunique(E)042609.pdf.

94. The ongoing negotiations for a new international agreement on climate change should fully embrace and apply the principle of common but differentiated responsibility to the least developed countries.

95. The least developed countries should continue to prepare and implement national adaptation programmes of action for climate change, focusing on the needs of the most vulnerable groups and ecosystems.

96. Development partners, including other developing countries, should give urgent attention to increasing the funding for projects that will enable the least developed countries to adapt to climate change. Resources for this purpose should be additional to ODA flows. They could be obtained through mandatory contributions based, for example, on a country's level of carbon emissions.

97. These issues should be among those addressed in the context of the upcoming Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. This Conference will be critical to restoring the momentum of development to the world's most vulnerable countries and to providing hope for many of the world's poorest people. To facilitate the preparatory process for the Conference, the General Assembly should decide on the pending organizational aspects of the Conference, including the schedule of meetings for the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee and the venue of the Conference itself.

Annex

Least developed countries: statistical data

Explanatory notes to tables

1. Years separated by a hyphen (such as 1995-2000) normally indicate data based on averages in the period shown. Years separated by a slash (such as 2000/07) indicate data are shown for the latest year available in the period or, in the case of years before 2000, a mid-point where data are available within the period indicated.

2. Numerical figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.

3. .. (two dots) indicates that data are not available.

4. — (dash) indicates that the amount is nil or negligible.

Table 1
Global economic environment for the least developed countries, 2000-2008

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Economic growth (per cent per year, weighted average)									
World	4	1.4	1.8	2.7	4	3.2	4	3.8	2.5
Developed countries	3.5	1.1	1.2	1.8	3.2	2.4	2.9	2.5	1.2
Developing countries, excluding LDCs	5.6	2.8	4.3	5.1	7.1	6.8	7.1	7.5	..
World trade	10.8	−0.9	3	6.4	11	7.1	8.8	6.3	4.4
International commodity prices (index: 2000 = 100)									
Oil	100	87	88	102	134	189	228	252	392
Non-oil commodities — dollar index	100	96	97	105	126	141	184	207	276
– Food	100	103	102	104	119	127	151	164	247
– Tropical beverages	100	79	89	94	100	126	134	148	186
– Vegetable oilseeds and oils	100	94	117	137	155	141	148	226	335
– Agricultural raw materials	100	96	94	112	127	132	152	169	216
– Minerals and metals	100	89	87	98	137	173	278	313	365
– Manufactured exports	100	98	99	108	117	119	123	133	139

Source: United Nations, *World Economic Situation and Prospects*, various issues (available at www.un.org/esa/policy/wess/wesp.html); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *Monthly Commodity Price Bulletin*.

Table 2
Poverty and hunger

	Population poverty rate (percentage)			Food insecurity						Refugees, internally displaced people[a]		Life expectancy	
	International Purchasing power parity dollar income of 1.25 per day or less		National estimate	Population undernourished (percentage)		Proportion of population undernourished (percentage change)	Food crisis		Pop growth, % per year	In country (thousands)[b]	Outside country (thousands)	Years at birth	Change in years
Least developed country	1990/99	2000/07	1998/04	1990/92	2003/05	1990 to 2005	•	†	2006	2007	2007	2005-2010	1995-2010
Africa													
Angola	..	54	..	66	46	−20			2.9	14.9	187.0	43	2
Benin	..	47	29	28	19	−9			3.2	8.1	0.4	57	2
Burkina Faso	71	57	46	14	10	−4			3.1	1.1	0.8	52	2
Burundi	86	81	68	44	63	19			4.0	32.0	382.8	50	4
Central African Republic	83	62	..	47	43	−4	•		1.8	206.5	99.4	45	−1
Chad	.	62	..	59	39	−20			3.2	472.9	58.4	51	−1
Comoros	..	46	..	..	..	..		†	2.5	..	0.1	65	5
Democratic Rep. of the Congo	..	59	..	29	76	47	•		3.2	1 495.4	406.7	47	4
Djibouti	5	19	..	..	..	..		†	1.8	7.1	0.7	55	2
Equatorial Guinea	..	..	..	..	..	..			2.5	..	0.4	52	3
Eritrea	..	..	..	67	68	1	•		3.7	7.1	221.0	58	5
Ethiopia	61	39	44	71	46	−25	•		2.6	285.4	89.3	53	4
Gambia	67	34	61	20	30	10		†	2.8	14.9	2.3	59	4
Guinea	93	70	..	19	17	−2	•		2.0	29.3	10.2	56	5
Guinea-Bissau	52	49	66	..	..	..	•		3.1	8.2	1.3	46	2
Lesotho	56	43	68	15	15	—	•		0.7	..	<0.05	43	13
Liberia	..	84	..	..	40	..	•		4.0	10.6[c]	95.1	46	4
Madagascar	73	68	71	32	37	5		†	2.8	..	0.2	59	4
Malawi	83	74	65	45	29	−16			2.6	9.7	8.3	48	1
Mali	86	51	64	14	11	−3			3.1	11.1	5.1	55	5
Mauritania	43	21	46	10	8	−2			2.7	30.5	34.1	64	4
Mozambique	81	75	54	59	38	−21		†	2.1	6.9	0.9	42	4
Niger	78	66	..	38	29	−9		†	3.6	0.3	1.1	57	6
Rwanda	..	77	60	45	40	−5		†	2.5	54.3[c]	89.2	46	10
Sao Tome and Principe	.	34	..	..	..	..			1.6	..	<0.05	66	2
Senegal	54	53	..	28	26	−2		†	2.6	22.9	16.8	63	3
Sierra Leone	63	..	70	45	47	2			2.8	9.0	36.8	43	3
Somalia	..	..	..	..	..	..	•		3.0	1 309.6	473.8	48	4

Least developed country	Population poverty rate (percentage): International Purchasing power parity dollar income of 1.25 per day or less 1990/99	2000/07	National estimate 1998/04	Food insecurity: Population undernourished (percentage) 1990/92	2003/05	Proportion of population undernourished (percentage change) 1990 to 2005	Food crisis *	†	Pop. growth, % per year 2006	Refugees, internally displaced people[a]: In country (thousands)[b] 2007	Outside country (thousands) 2007	Life expectancy: Years at birth 2005-2010	Change in years 1995-2010
Sudan	..	..	..	..	21	..			2.2	5 130.0	542.4	59	3
Togo	..	39	..	45	37	-8		†	2.7	1.5	23.8	58	..
Uganda	64	52	38	19	15	4			3.3	1 470.7	24.5	52	7
United Republic of Tanzania	73	89	36	28	35	7		†	2.5	435.9	4.2	53	4
Zambia	65	64	68	40	45	5		†	1.9	113.0	0.7	42	2
Asia													
Afghanistan	..	..	..	..	..	..			4.1	153.7	3 074.2	44	2
Bangladesh	59	50	50	36	27	-9			1.8	27.6	17.6	64	5
Bhutan	..	26	..	..	..	..			1.8	..	112.2	66	7
Cambodia	49	40	35	38	26	-12			1.7	0.4	18.1	60	3
Lao People's Democratic Republic	49	44	33	27	19	-8			1.7	..	10.2	64	5
Maldives	..	..	..	..	..	..			1.6	..	<0.05	69	5
Myanmar	..	..	..	44	19	-25			0.9	1 174.6	210.3	62	2
Nepal	68	55	31	21	15	-6			2.0	982.5	5.5	64	4
Timor-Leste	..	53	..	..	..	..	*		4.4	62.6	<0.05	61	6
Yemen	5	18	42	30	32	2		†	3.0	195.1	1.9	63	5
Pacific													
Kiribati	..	..	..	..	..	..			2.2	..	<0.05	..	..
Samoa	..	..	..	..	..	..			0.6	..	<0.05	72	3
Solomon Islands	..	..	..	..	..	..		†	2.5	..	0.07	64	3
Tuvalu	..	..	..	..	..	..			-4.2	..	<0.05	..	..
Vanuatu	..	..	..	..	..	..			2.6	1.0	..	70	4
Latin America and the Caribbean													
Haiti	..	55	..	63	58	-5	*		1.6	2.0	32.5	61	4

Sources: World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2009* (Washington, D.C.), table 2.6, and PovcalNet, http://go.worldbank.org/NT2AIXUWPO (accessed on 1 March 2008); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2008* (Rome); United Nations Population Division, *World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision*; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Statistical Yearbook 2007, tables 1 and 2; and additional analysis provided by the UNHCR Field Information and Coordination Support Section.

* "Food crisis" countries requiring external assistance (FAO, 2008, p. 21).

† Countries severely affected by high commodity prices and at high risk of food crisis (FAO, 2008, p. 21).

[a] Population of concern to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees including internally displaced persons.

[b] Estimate includes estimate of internally displaced persons by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Geneva.

[c] Internally displaced persons not determined.

Table 3
Selected international financial flows to and from the least developed countries, 2000-2007

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Official development assistance from Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Development Assistance Committee (DAC) countries								
– Total (billions of US$)	..	12.9	15.9	22.5	23.5	26.2	30.0	32.0
– Share of DAC gross national income (per cent)	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.09	0.09
United Nations system expenditures on operational activities (billions of US$)	..	..	2.6	3.5	3.9	5.4	5.3	5.9
Debt service (share of exports, per cent)	11.6	12.2	9.2	8.5	8.2	7.1	6.7	6.8
Foreign direct investment (billions of US$)	4.0	7.1	6.8	10.9	9.6	7.1	12.7	13.2
Remittances from workers	14.6	16.2	20.7	23.7	26.3	28.4	34.1	36.5

Sources: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, *Development Cooperation Report*, various issues; Millennium Development Goals Indicators (available at http://mdg.un.org), based on data from the World Bank; International Monetary Fund, *Balance of Payments Statistics*; Comprehensive statistical analysis of the financing of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2007 (A/64/75-E/2009/59).

Table 4
Selected indicators of progress in the least developed countries, 2000-2008

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Economic growth									
Growth of output (per cent per year)[a]	4.8	6	5.6	5.2	7.2	7.9	7.7	7.8	6.4
Growth of exports (current dollar prices, per cent per year)	25	—	9	17	26	36	24	19	..
Economic growth per capita									
Growth of per capita output (per cent per year)	..	3.4	3.1	2.6	4.6	5.3	5.1	5.3	3.6
Growth of per capita output exceeding 3 per cent									
Number of countries	9	12	10	11	20	19	16	20	16
Proportion of LDC population (per cent)	40.0	41.9	30.5	42.9	70.5	73.3	60.0	70.5	61.0
Countries with a decline in per capita output									
Number of countries	16	12	13	12	8	7	6	11	5
Proportion of LDC population (per cent)	24.8	20.0	19.0	27.6	14.3	9.5	5.7	6.7	4.8
Poverty									
Population living on less than $1.25 (2005 purchasing power parity) per day, per cent	60.4[a]	..	57.7	..	..	53.4	..	..	..
Poverty gap ratio (per cent)	24.7[a]	..	22.8	..	..	19.9	..	..	..
Education (per cent)									
Total net enrolment ratio in primary — female	58.3	60.6	60.0	63.6	73.2	70.6	73.3	74.0	..
Total net enrolment ratio in primary — male	61.0	63.4	67.4	70.5	73.2	75.9	78.0	78.0	..
Primary completion rate — female	40.7	42.1	44.5	46.0	47.5	50.0	52.2	55.0	..
Primary completion rate — male	49.0	50.6	52.8	54.6	56.0	58.6	59.7	63.0	..
Secondary gross enrolment ratio — female	23.6	24.6	25.9	26.2	27	..	..	..	..
Secondary gross enrolment rate — male	29	30.6	31.9	32.4	33.4	..	..	..	..
Tertiary gross enrolment ratio — female	2.9	3	3	3.1	3.2	..	..	..	..
Tertiary gross enrolment rate — male	4.4	4.8	4.8	5	5	..	..	..	..

Source: United Nations, *World Economic Situation and Prospects*, various issues (available at www.un.org/esa/policy/wess/wesp.html); Millennium Development Goals Indicators (available at http://mdgs.un.org), based on data from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

[a] Data relates to 1999.

Table 5
A. Universal primary education and gender equality in education

Least developed country	Net enrolment ratio in primary education, per 100			Ratio of girls to boys enrolled in primary education			Ratio of girls to boys enrolled in secondary education			Ratio of girls to boys enrolled in tertiary education		
	1991	2000	2007	1991	2000	2007	1991	2000	2007	1991	2000	2007
Africa												
Angola	50	..	..	0.9	..	0.9	..	0.8	..	..	..	..
Benin	41	52	..	0.5	0.7	..	0.4	0.5	..	0.2	0.3	..
Burkina Faso	25	36	53	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.5
Burundi	53	43	81	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.6	..	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.5
Central African Republic	52	..	54	0.6	..	0.7	0.4	..	..	0.1	0.2	..
Chad	33	53	..	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.4	..	0.2	..
Comoros	59	55	..	0.7	0.9	..	0.6	0.8	..	..	0.7	..
Democratic Rep. of the Congo	54	..	..	0.7	..	0.8	..	..	0.5	..	..	0.3
Djibouti	28	27	42	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	..	0.9	0.7
Equatorial Guinea	97	91	69	1.0	1.0	0.9	..	0.6	..	0.1	0.4	..
Eritrea	14	38	42	1.0	0.8	0.8	..	0.7	0.7	..	0.2	..
Ethiopia	22	38	72	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.3
Gambia	45	70	71	0.7	0.9	1.1	0.5	0.7	0.9	..	0.3	..
Guinea	28	48	75	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.1	..	..
Guinea-Bissau	38	45	..	0.5	0.7	..	..	0.5	..	..	0.2	..
Lesotho	73	78	..	1.2	1.0	..	1.4	1.3	..	1.3	1.5	..
Liberia	..	66	..	..	0.7	..	..	0.7	..	..	0.8	..
Madagascar	65	65	99	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	..	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.9
Malawi	49	..	88	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.5
Mali	29	..	63	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.5	..
Mauritania	37	65	81	0.8	1.0	1.1	0.5	0.8	0.9	0.2	..	..
Mozambique	42	56	70	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.7	..	..	..
Niger	26	27	45	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.6	..	..	0.3
Rwanda	68	..	94	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.9	0.9	..	0.4	..
Sao Tome and Principe	..	..	99	..	..	1.0	..	..	1.1	..	..	..
Senegal	47	57	73	0.7	0.9	1.0	0.5	0.7	0.8	..	..	0.5
Sierra Leone	43	..	..	0.7	..	0.9	0.6	..	0.7	..	..	..

Least developed country	Net enrolment ratio in primary education, per 100			Ratio of girls to boys enrolled in primary education			Ratio of girls to boys enrolled in secondary education			Ratio of girls to boys enrolled in tertiary education		
	1991	2000	2007	1991	2000	2007	1991	2000	2007	1991	2000	2007
Somalia	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sudan	41	44	..	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8	..	0.9	0.9	0.9	..
Togo	64	78	79	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.2	..	..
Uganda	..	..	95	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.4	0.5	..
United Republic of Tanzania	52	53	..	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.8	..	..	0.2	..	0.5
Zambia	..	68	95	..	0.9	1.0	..	0.8	0.9	..	0.5	..
Asia												
Afghanistan	..	..	..	0.6	..	0.6	0.5	..	0.4	..	..	..
Bangladesh	..	..	..	..	..	1.1	..	1.0	1.1	..	0.5	0.6
Bhutan	..	59	..	..	0.9	..	..	0.8	..	..	0.5	0.5
Cambodia	75	87	89	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.4	0.5	0.8	..	0.3	0.6
Lao People's Democratic Rep.	62	77	86	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.8	..	0.5	0.7
Maldives	..	99	97	..	1.0	1.0	..	1.1	..	..	..	..
Myanmar	99	..	..	1.0	..	..	1.0	..	..	..	..	..
Nepal	..	73	76	0.6	0.8	1.0	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.3	0.4	..
Timor-Leste	..	..	63	..	..	0.9	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yemen	49	59	..	..	0.6	..	..	0.4	..	..	0.3	..
Pacific												
Kiribati	..	..	..	..	1.0	..	..	1.6	..	..	..	..
Samoa	..	92	..	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.1	..	..	0.9	..
Solomon Islands	..	..	..	0.9	0.9	..	0.6	0.8	..	..	..	..
Tuvalu	..	..	..	..	1.0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vanuatu	..	95	88	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.1	..	..	..	..
Latin America and the Caribbean												
Haiti	22	..	..	1.0	..	..	0.9	..	..	..	..	..

A/64/80
E/2009/79

Table 5
B. Adult literacy

Least developed country	Adult literacy (aged 15+) (percentage literate)									Change in gender difference, 1985/94-2007 (percentage)	Change in adult literacy, 1985/94-2007 (percentage)
	1985/1994			1995/2004			2005/2007				
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total		
Africa											
Angola	..	..	..	54	83	67	..	..	..	..	..
Benin	17	40	27	23	48	35	28	53	41	2	13
Burkina Faso	8	20	14	15	29	22	22	37	29	4	15
Burundi	28	48	37	52	67	59	..	..	..	..	..
Central African Republic	20	48	34	33	65	49	..	..	..	..	..
Chad	..	..	12	18	39	28	21	43	32	..	20
Comoros	56	70	63	67	78	72	70	80	75	–4	12
Democratic Rep. of the Congo	..	..	..	54	81	67	..	..	..	..	..
Djibouti	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Equatorial Guinea	..	..	..	80	93	87	..	..	..	..	..
Eritrea	..	..	..	40	65	53	53	76	64	..	..
Ethiopia	19	36	27	23	50	36	23	50	36	10	9
Gambia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Guinea	..	..	..	18	43	29	..	..	..	..	..
Guinea-Bissau	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lesotho	..	..	..	90	74	82	..	..	..	..	..
Liberia	30	52	41	46	58	52	51	60	56	–13	15
Madagascar	..	..	..	65	77	71	..	..	..	..	..
Malawi	34	65	49	54	75	64	65	79	72	–17	23
Mali	..	..	..	16	33	24	18	35	26	..	..
Mauritania	..	..	..	43	60	51	48	63	56	..	..
Mozambique	..	..	..	25	55	39	33	57	44	..	..
Niger	17	49	33	35	63	49	44	70	57	–5	24
Rwanda	..	..	58	60	71	65	..	..	..	..	..
Sao Tome and Principe	62	85	73	78	92	85	83	93	88	–13	15
Senegal	18	37	27	29	51	39	33	52	42	—	15

Least developed country	Adult literacy (aged 15+) (percentage literate)									Change in gender difference, 1985/94-2007 (percentage)	Change in adult literacy, 1985/94-2007 (percentage)
	1985/1994			1995/2004			2005/2007				
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total		
Sierra Leone	..	..	..	24	47	35	27	50	38	..	..
Somalia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sudan	..	..	..	52	71	61	..	..	..	..	..
Togo	..	..	..	38	69	53	..	..	..	..	..
Uganda	45	68	56	59	78	68	66	82	74	−7	17
United Republic of Tanzania	48	71	59	62	78	69	66	79	72	−10	13
Zambia	57	73	65	62	81	69	61	81	71	4	6
Asia											
Afghanistan	..	..	..	13	43	28	..	..	..	..	..
Bangladesh	26	44	35	41	54	47	48	59	53	−8	18
Bhutan	..	..	..	..	..	..	39	65	53	..	..
Cambodia	..	..	..	64	85	74	68	86	76	..	..
Lao People's Democratic Rep.	..	..	..	61	77	69	63	82	73	..	..
Maldives	96	96	96	96	96	96	97	97	97	—	1
Myanmar	..	..	..	86	94	90	..	..	..		
Nepal	17	49	33	35	63	49	44	70	57	−5	24
Timor-Leste	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yemen	17	57	37	35	73	54	40	77	59	−3	22
Pacific											
Kiribati	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Samoa	97	98	98	98	99	99	98	99	99	—	1
Solomon Islands	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuvalu	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vanuatu	63	68	66	73	78	75	76	80	78	−2	13
Latin America and the Caribbean											
Haiti	46	47	46	53	57	55	64	60	62	−5	16

Sources: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2009, *Overcoming inequality: why governance matters* (Paris, 2008), annex tables 5, 8, 9A and 12, and updated data provided on 20 April 2009 by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (Montreal).

Table 6
Infant and child health

Least developed country	Under-5 mortality rate (per 1,000)			Infant mortality rate (per 1,000)			1-yr-old children immunized (percentage)		Children under 6 months exclusively breastfed (percentage)	Moderately severely underweight children under 5 (percentage)
	1990	2000	2007	1990	2000	2007	Measles 2007	DPT3 2007	2000-07	2000-07
Africa										
Angola	258	191	158	150	126	116	88	83	11	31
Benin	184	144	123	111	89	78	61	67	43	23
Burkina Faso	206	190	191	112	104	104	94	99	7	37
Burundi	189	184	180	113	110	108	75	74	45	39
Central African Republic	171	186	172	113	120	113	62	54	23	29
Chad	201	205	209	120	122	124	23	20	2	37
Comoros	120	84	66	88	62	49	65	75	21	25
Democratic Rep. of the Congo	200	179	161	127	116	108	79	87	36	31
Djibouti	175	147	127	116	97	84	74	88	1	29
Equatorial Guinea	170	200	206	103	120	124	51	33	24	19
Eritrea	147	97	70	88	61	46	95	97	52	40
Ethiopia	204	150	119	122	92	75	65	73	49	38
Gambia	153	131	109	104	93	82	85	90	41	20
Guinea	231	185	150	137	111	93	71	75	27	26
Guinea-Bissau	240	218	198	142	129	118	76	63	16	19
Lesotho	102	107	84	81	84	68	85	83	36	20
Liberia	205	164	133	138	113	93	95	88	35	26
Madagascar	168	137	112	103	84	70	81	82	67	42
Malawi	209	170	111	124	103	71	83	87	57	21
Mali	250	217	196	148	129	117	68	68	38	32
Mauritania	130	122	119	81	77	75	67	75	20	32
Mozambique	201	184	168	135	125	115	77	72	30	24
Niger	304	230	176	143	109	83	47	39	9	44
Rwanda	195	189	181	117	113	109	99	97	88	23
Sao Tome and Principe	101	100	99	65	64	64	86	97	60	9
Senegal	149	133	114	72	66	59	84	94	34	17
Sierra Leone	290	274	262	169	161	155	67	64	8	30
Somalia	203	164	142	121	100	88	34	39	9	36
Sudan	125	115	109	79	73	69	79	84	16	41
Togo	150	122	100	89	76	65	80	88	28	26
Uganda	175	149	130	106	92	82	68	64	60	20
United Republic of Tanzania	157	143	116	96	89	73	90	83	41	22
Zambia	163	178	170	99	108	103	85	80	61	19

Least developed country	Under-5 mortality rate (per 1,000)			Infant mortality rate (per 1,000)			1-yr-old children immunized (percentage)		Children under 6 months exclusively breastfed (percentage)	Moderately severely underweight children under 5 (percentage)
	1990	2000	2007	1990	2000	2007	Measles 2007	DPT3 2007	2000/07	2000/07
Asia										
Afghanistan	260	257	257	168	165	165	70	83	—	39
Bangladesh	151	91	61	105	66	47	88	90	37	46
Bhutan	148	106	84	91	68	56	95	95	—	19
Cambodia	119	107	91	87	80	70	79	82	60	36
Lao People's Democratic Rep.	163	101	70	120	77	56	40	50	23	37
Maldives	111	55	30	79	43	26	97	98	10	30
Myanmar	130	110	103	91	78	74	81	86	15	32
Nepal	142	85	55	99	63	43	81	82	53	45
Timor-Leste	184	129	97	138	100	77	63	70	31	49
Yemen	127	98	73	90	71	55	74	87	—	46
Pacific										
Kiribati	88	70	63	65	52	46	93	94	80	13
Samoa	50	34	27	40	28	22	63	71	—	—
Solomon Islands	121	88	70	86	65	53	78	79	65	21
Tuvalu	53	43	37	42	35	30	95	97	—	—
Vanuatu	62	48	34	48	38	28	65	76	50	—
Latin America and the Caribbean										
Haiti	152	109	76	105	78	57	58	53	41	22
Least developed countries	130		112	64		47	76	79	37	25

Source: United Nations Children's Fund, *The State of the World's Children 2009: Maternal and Newborn Health* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XX.1), tables 1-3.

Table 7
Reproductive health and health services

Least developed country	Skilled health personnel at birth (percentage of births) 2000/06	Women with antenatal visit to skilled practitioner (percentage) 2000/06	Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000) 2000/06 reported[a]	Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000) 2005 adjusted[a]	Contraceptive use, currently married women aged 15-49, any method (percentage) 1990/95	Contraceptive use, currently married women aged 15-49, any method (percentage) 2000/06
Africa						
Angola	47	80	..	1 400	6.2	..
Benin	74	84	400	840	18.6	17
Burkina Faso	54	85	480	700	11.9	..
Burundi	34	92	620	1 100	15.7	..
Central African Republic	53	69	540	980	27.9	19
Chad	14	39	1 100	1 500	7.9	..
Comoros	62	75	380	400	25.7	..
Democratic Rep. of the Congo	74	85	1 300	1 100	31.4	20.6
Djibouti	61	92	74	650	..	17.8
Equatorial Guinea	65	86	..	680	..	..
Eritrea	28	70	1 000	450	..	..
Ethiopia	6	28	670	720	8.1	14.7
Gambia	57	98	730	690	17.5	..
Guinea	38	82	980	910	6.2	9.1
Guinea-Bissau	39	78	410	1 100	7.6	10.3
Lesotho	55	90	760	960	40.6	..
Liberia	51	85	580	1 200	..	..
Madagascar	51	80	470	510	18.8	..
Malawi	54	92	810	1 100	30.6	41.7
Mali	45	70	460	970	8.1	8.2
Mauritania	57	64	750	820	8	..
Mozambique	48	85	410	520		..
Niger	33	46	650	1 800	14	11.2
Rwanda	39	94	750	1 300	13.2	17.4
Sao Tome and Principe	81	97	150	..	29.3	..
Senegal	52	87	400	980	10.5	11.8
Sierra Leone	43	81	1 800	2 100	4.3	5.3
Somalia	33	26	1 000	1 400	7.9	14.6
Sudan	87	60	550	450	7	7.6
Togo	62	84	480	510	25.7	16.8
Uganda	42	94	440	550	22.8	23.7
United Republic of Tanzania	43	78	580	950	25.4	26.4
Zambia	43	93	730	830	22	..

Least developed country	*Skilled health personnel at birth (percentage of births)* 2000/06	*Women with antenatal visit to skilled practitioner (percentage)* 2000/06	*Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000)* 2000/06 reported[a]	2005 adjusted[b]	*Contraceptive use, currently married women aged 15-49, any method (percentage)* 1990/95	2000/06
Asia						
Afghanistan	14	16	1 600	1 800	4.8	18.6
Bangladesh	18	51	320	570	53.8	..
Bhutan	56	88	260	440	30.7	..
Cambodia	44	69	470	540	23.8	40
Lao People's Democratic Rep.	19	27	410	660	32.2	..
Maldives	84	81	140	120	42	..
Myanmar	57	76	320	380	37	..
Nepal	19	44	280	830	39.3	48
Timor-Leste	18	61	..	380	..	..
Yemen	36	41	370	430	..	..
Pacific						
Kiribati	85	88	56	..	36.1	..
Samoa	100	..	29	..	..	..
Solomon Islands	85	..	140	220	..	..
Tuvalu	100	..	..	..	..	..
Vanuatu	88	..	68	..	..	..
Latin America and the Caribbean						..
Haiti	26	85	630	670	28.1	32
Least Developed Countries	39	64		870		29

Sources: United Nations Population Division, *World Contraceptive Use 2007* (New York, 2008); and United Nations Children's Fund, *State of the World's Children 2009: Maternal and Newborn Health* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XX.1), table 8.

[a] National data for the most recent year in the period 2000-2006.

[b] Internationally comparable data prepared by UNICEF.

Table 8
HIV/AIDS prevalence and prevention

Least developed country	HIV prevalence rate, adults aged 15-49		Rate of condom use at last high-risk sex (percentage)				Condom use rate of contraceptive prevalence (percentage)	Population aged 15-24 with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS (percentage) 2002/07		AIDS orphans (one or both parents dead) (thousands)	Ratio of school attendance of orphans to that of non-orphans
			1995/01		2002/06						
	2005	2007	Women	Men	Women	Men	2000/07	Women	Men	2007	2002/07
Africa											
Angola	1.6	2.1	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	50	90
Benin	1.3	1.2	9	34	28	45	7	16	35	29	90
Burkina Faso	2.1	1.6	41	55	64	67	15	19	..	100	61
Burundi	3.5	2.0	..	..	25	..	3	30	..	120	85
Central African Republic	6.4	6.3	..	..	41	..	18	17	27	72	96
Chad	3.4	3.5	..	..	17	25	14	8	20	85	105
Comoros	<0.1	<0.1	..	..	..	..	3	10	..	<0.1	..
Democratic Rep. of the Congo	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	15	21	..	77
Djibouti	3.1	3.1	..	..	26	50	1	18	..	5	..
Equatorial Guinea	3.7	3.4	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	5	95
Eritrea	1.2	1.3	..	..	..	..	8	37	..	18	83
Ethiopia	2.4	2.1	17	30	28	50	1	20	33	650	90
Gambia	0.9	0.9	..	..	54		3	39	..	3	87
Guinea	1.2	1.6	17	32	26	37	12	17	23	25	73
Guinea-Bissau	1.8	1.8	..	..	39	..	7	18	..	6	97
Lesotho	23.9	23.2	..	..	53	53	13	26	18	110	95
Liberia	1.4	1.7	..	..	..	..	..	21	27	15	..
Madagascar	0.1	0.1	..	..	5	12	4	19	16	3	75
Malawi	13.3	11.9	32	38	40	40	4	42	42	550	97
Mali	1.5	1.5	14	31	17	17	5	18	22	44	87
Mauritania	0.7	0.8	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	3	..
Mozambique	10.3	12.5	..	..	29	33	7	20	33	400	80
Niger	0.7	0.8	7	30	18	37	—	13	16	25	67
Rwanda	4.3	2.8	23	55	26	40	5	51	54	220	82
Sao Tome and Principe	..	..	..	..	56	..	—	44	..	..	..
Senegal	0.4	1.0	..	..	36	52	13	19	24	8	83
Sierra Leone	1.3	1.7	..	..	20	..	2	17	..	16	83
Somalia	0.5	0.5	..	..	..	..	—	4	..	9	78
Sudan	1.4	1.4	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	96
Togo	3.6	3.3	22	41	50	..	23	28	..	68	94
Uganda	7.9	5.4	25	42	53	55	7	32	38	1 200	96
United Republic of Tanzania	7.0	6.2	18	31	34	46	8	45	40	970	102

Least developed country	HIV prevalence rate, adults aged 15-49		Rate of condom use at last high-risk sex (percentage)				Condom use rate of contraceptive prevalence (percentage)	Population aged 15-24 with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS (percentage) 2002/07		AIDS orphans (one or both parents dead) (thousands)	Ratio of school attendance of orphans to that of non-orphans
			1995/01		2002/06						
	2005	2007	Women	Men	Women	Men	2000/07	Women	Men	2007	2002/07
Zambia	15.4	15.2	20	39	26	38	11	34	37	600	103
Asia											
Afghanistan	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	..	..	..	..
Bangladesh	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	16	..	..	84
Bhutan	..	0.1	..	..	..	..	—	..	..	..	..
Cambodia	1.5	0.8	..	..	..	84	7	50	45	..	83
Lao People's Democratic Rep.	<0.1	0.2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
Maldives	..	..	..	..	..	..	23	..	..	..	..
Myanmar	0.9	0.7	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Nepal	0.5	0.5	..	..	..	78	10	28	44	..	..
Timor-Leste	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	..	..	..	..
Yemen	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
Pacific											
Kiribati	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Samoa	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Solomon Islands	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuvalu	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vanuatu	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Latin America and the Caribbean											
Haiti	2.2	2.2	19	30	29	43	17	34	40	..	86
Least developed countries	2	2	..	..	29	45	..	23	32	..	86

Sources: UNAIDS, *2008 Report on the global AIDS epidemic* (Geneva, 2008), and United Nations Children's Fund, *The State of the World's Children 2009: Maternal and Newborn Health* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XX.1), table 4.

Table 9
Malaria and tuberculosis prevalence, mortality, prevention and treatment

	Malaria					Tuberculosis							
				Children under age 5							DOTS[a]		
Least developed country	High-burden country 2008	Estimated cases per 1,000 population 2007	Estimated deaths per 100,000 population 2007	Use of treated bed nets (percentage) 2003/07	With fever using anti-malarial drugs (percentage) 2003/07	High-burden country 2008	Estimated cases per 100,000 population 2000	2007	Estimated deaths per 100,000 population 2000	2007	Population coverage (percentage) 2007	Case detection rate (percentage) 2007	Treatment success (percentage) 2006/07
Africa													
Angola	x	215	128	18	29		530	294	57	22	63	80	18
Benin		370	146	20	54		128	135	12	12	..	..	..
Burkina Faso	x	434	178	10	48		338	403	34	41	100	11	73
Burundi		278	94	8	30		455	647	46	68	100	20	83
Central African Republic		369	100	15	57		485	425	47	38	..	..	..
Chad	x	399	173	1	53		420	497	43	51	33	18	54
Comoros		251	36	9	63		112	83	8	6	..	..	..
Democratic Rep. of the Congo	x	389	158	6	30	x	592	666	65	72	100	39	86
Djibouti		47	14	1	10		761	1 104	70	91	100	45	78
Equatorial Guinea		390	220	1	49		274	469	22	48	..	..	..
Eritrea		4	2	4	4		114	134	42	43	93	76	90
Ethiopia	x	153	51	33	10	x	486	579	53	64	95	40	84
Gambia		282	106	49	63		491	404	53	43	100	42	58
Guinea		410	164	1	44		332	448	35	46	60	34	75
Guinea-Bissau		367	180	39	46		273	319	30	30	..	..	..
Lesotho		..	..	..	..		356	568	16	37	100	17	66
Liberia		408	171	..	59		435	398	46	41	..	..	..
Madagascar	x	34	12	—	34		359	417	39	45	100	42	78
Malawi	x	334	95	25	25		362	305	23	21	100	49	78
Mali	x	361	201	27	32		571	599	61	63	100	13	76
Mauritania		184	85	..	21		619	559	67	60	82	28	41
Mozambique	x	354	92	..	15	x	499	504	47	45	100	39	83
Niger	x	419	229	7	33		278	292	30	31	100	35	77

Least developed country	Malaria					Tuberculosis							
				Children under age 5							DOTS[a]		
	High-burden country	Estimated cases per 1,000 population	Estimated deaths per 100,000 population	Use of treated bed nets (percentage)	With fever using anti-malarial drugs (percentage)	High-burden country	Estimated cases per 100,000 population		Estimated deaths per 100,000 population		Population coverage (percentage)	Case detection rate (percentage)	Treatment success (percentage)
	2008	2007	2007	2003/07	2003/07	2008	2000	2007	2000	2007	2007	2007	2006/07
Rwanda		344	59	13	12		442	590	39	57	100	19	86
Sao Tome and Principe		67	19	42	25		272	240	30	26	—	..	..
Senegal	x	121	80	16	22		420	468	45	49	100	29	76
Sierra Leone		396	154	5	52		675	941	71	98	100	27	87
Somalia		72	41	11	8		414	352	67	55	100	49	89
Sudan	x	133	85	—	50		375	402	53	59	91	29	82
Togo		325	113	38	48		656	750	66	76	100	8	67
Uganda	x	355	145	10	61	x	364	337	30	29	100	39	70
United Republic of Tanzania	x	292	98	16	58	x	391	426	34	41	100	48	85
Zambia	x	313	121	29	38		658	387	47	25	100	74	85
Asia													
Afghanistan		22	—	..	..	x	346	238	41	30	97	61	84
Bangladesh	x	19	4	..	..	x	500	387	58	44	100	41	92
Bhutan		24	3	..	..		515	363	60	43	100	59	89
Cambodia	x	18	4	4	—	x	758	664	83	77	100	49	93
Lao People's Democratic Rep.		4	1	18	9		344	289	27	22	100	43	92
Maldives		..	..	..	..		96	48	7	4	100	88	91
Myanmar	x	87	19	..	..	x	267	162	32	11	95	149	84
Nepal		1	—	..	—		312	240	28	22	100	63	88
Timor-Leste		475	93	8	47		644	378	70	47	100	87	79
Yemen		12	4	..	..		164	130	12	10	100	30	83
Pacific													
Kiribati		..	..	..	..		546	423	62	49	100	95	90
Samoa		..	..	..	..		27	25	3	3	..	..	..
Solomon Islands		218	30	..	..		300	180	33	21	100	61	90
Tuvalu		..	..	..	..		422	203	40	17	100	97	75
Vanuatu		134	13	..	..		143	102	16	12	83	70	90

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	Malaria					Tuberculosis							
				Children under age 5							DOTS[a]		
Least developed country	High-burden country	Estimated cases per 1,000 population	Estimated deaths per 100,000 population	Use of treated bed nets (percentage)	With fever using anti-malarial drugs (percentage)	High-burden country	Estimated cases per 100,000 population		Estimated deaths per 100,000 population		Population coverage (percentage)	Case detection rate (percentage)	Treatment success (percentage)
	2008	2007	2007	2003/07	2003/07	2008	2000	2007	2000	2007	2007	2007	2006/07
Latin America and the Caribbean													
Haiti		17	8	..	5		403	366	53	47	70	45	82

Sources: World Health Organization, *World Malaria Report 2008* (Geneva, 2008); United Nations Children's Fund, *The State of the World's Children 2009: Maternal and Newborn Health* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XX.1), table 3; and World Health Organization, *Global Tuberculosis Control 2009: epidemiology, strategy, financing* (Geneva, 2009).

[a] Internationally recommended strategy for tuberculosis control.

Table 10
Economic growth and fixed capital formation

Least developed country	Gross domestic product: Average annual growth of GDP in constant US$ (percentage) 1995-2000	2000-2005	2007	Per capita GDP in constant US$ 2000	2007	Per capita GDP in current US$ 2007	Gross fixed capital formation as a percentage of GDP 2000	2007	Foreign direct investment, net inflows, percentage of GDP 2000	2007	Population: Total (thousands) 2007	Growth per cent per year 2007
Africa												
Oil exporters												
Angola	6.1	10.3	21.1	839	1 612	3 068	20.8	19.6	9.6	-2.9	17	2.8
Chad	2.7	15.0	0.6	257	419	692	8.7	22.0	8.3	8.1	11	3.0
Equatorial Guinea	33.9	26.6	12.4	2 026	5 953	19 998	242.5	164.6	9.5	17.0	1	2.2
Sudan	9.4	9.1	10.5	964	1 554	1 443	10.5	34.5	3.0	4.4	39	2.3
Subtotal (oil exporters)	**8.4**	**10.1**	**12.9**	**834**	**1 419**	**1 877**	**17.7**	**34.0**	**6.0**	**2.6**	**68**	
Non-oil exporters												
Benin	4.8	4.1	6.0	397	429	618	16.4	18.1	2.5	0.9	9	3.1
Burkina Faso	6.5	6.4	6.7	436	542	483	12.6	14.0	0.9	8.4	15	3.0
Burundi	-1.2	2.1	5.5	145	140	118	7.5	27.0	1.6	—	9	4.1
Central African Republic	2.3	-0.8	4.2	453	421	394	11.0	10.9	0.1	1.6	4	1.8
Comoros	1.4	2.8	-3.1	399	372	556	10.0	7.4	—	0.2	1	2.6
Democratic Rep. of the Congo	-3.9	4.0	6.5	102	112	151	16.1	10.2	0.4	7.6	63	3.3
Djibouti	0.4	2.8	4.8	707	780	1 002	8.7	38.5	0.6	23.4	1	1.7
Eritrea	1.1	2.6	1.3	372	322	271	20.0	21.9	3.9	-0.2	5	3.4
Ethiopia	4.6	5.6	11.2	208	280	201	8.5	8.1	1.7	1.5	83	2.6
Gambia	3.9	3.8	4.8	333	356	377	17.6	28.1	10.3	9.9	2	2.8
Guinea	4.5	3.0	1.5	512	539	452	13.0	10.1	0.3	2.6	9	2.1
Guinea-Bissau	-0.2	-0.2	3.7	193	167	211	12.8	11.7	0.3	2.0	2	3.0
Lesotho	3.1	2.9	4.9	463	563	797	51.5	38.8	3.7	6.6	2	0.7
Liberia	35.1	-4.6	9.3	157	119	195	7.9	15.6	3.7	5.8	4	4.8
Madagascar	3.8	2.3	6.3	226	232	377	16.0	27.7	2.1	13.4	20	2.7
Malawi	4.2	2.7	7.4	271	299	257	18.9	17.8	1.6	1.5	14	2.6
Mali	4.5	6.4	2.5	374	446	554	16.2	17.3	3.1	5.3	12	3.1

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Least developed country	Gross domestic product: Average annual growth of GDP in constant US$ (percentage) 1995-2000	2000-2005	2007	Per capita GDP in constant US$ 2000	2007	Per capita GDP in current US$ 2007	Gross fixed capital formation as a percentage of GDP 2000	2007	Foreign direct investment, net inflows, percentage of GDP 2000	2007	Population: Total (thousands) 2007	Growth, per cent per year 2007
Mauritania	2.6	4.3	0.9	550	625	874	22.3	21.2	3.7	5.6	3	2.6
Mozambique	7.9	8.8	7.0	275	412	362	26.5	17.0	3.2	5.5	21	2.0
Niger	2.9	5.4	3.1	269	296	289	7.6	12.7	0.5	0.7	14	3.6
Rwanda	10.2	5.7	6.0	324	401	354	15.4	21.0	0.5	2.0	10	2.8
Sao Tome and Principe	1.7	6.4	6.4	1 000	1 367	912	37.9	67.1	5.0	24.6	16	1.9
Senegal	4.8	4.7	5.0	812	915	908	21.0	28.2	1.3	0.7	12	2.5
Sierra Leone	-10.1	12.9	6.5	94	153	330	8.0	4.6	4.2	4.2	6	2.1
Somalia	2.1	2.9	2.7	108	106	291	19.6	19.7	—	5.6	7	3.0
Togo	2.1	1.2	2.9	363	332	386	9.5	8.2	3.2	2.7	7	2.7
Uganda	6.5	5.6	6.5	290	346	403	12.9	20.9	3.2	3.0	31	3.3
United Republic of Tanzania	4.1	6.8	7.3	192	254	368	18.7	16.1	2.3	4.0	40	2.5
Zambia	2.7	4.8	5.8	383	476	974	21.3	81.5	3.8	8.5	12	1.9
Subtotal (non-oil exporters)	**3.9**	**5.0**	**6.4**	**263**	**312**	**309**	**15.6**	**19.0**	**2.0**	**4.6**	**2 441**	
Subtotal (Africa)	**5.3**	**6.8**	**9.1**	**343**	**464**	**525**	**16.3**	**25.0**	**3.1**	**3.7**	**502**	
Asia												
Afghanistan	-3.5	20.1	12.4	131	302	345	12.9	21.0	—	3.1	27	4.1
Bangladesh	5.2	5.4	6.5	350	455	428	24.4	28.5	1.3	1.0	159	1.7
Bhutan	6.8	7.6	22.5	834	1 357	1 982	55.4	59.7	—	6.0	0.7	1.4
Cambodia	7.1	9.3	10.2	212	358	598	21.3	25.0	4.1	10.0	14	1.7
Lao People's Democratic Rep.	6.2	6.3	8.0	305	432	711	10.4	39.7	2.0	7.8	6	1.7
Maldives	8.3	4.8	7.8	1 630	2 451	3 454	28.5	58.1	2.1	1.4	0.3	2.0
Myanmar	8.3	12.9	5.5	223	457	379	25.9	38.1	2.9	2.3	49	0.9
Nepal	4.8	2.9	2.5	273	287	419	19.2	20.4	—	—	28	2.0
Timor-Leste	-3.7	0.9	16.7	239	200	393	26.5	28.1	—	0.3	1	3.7
Yemen	8.2	4.2	3.1	376	399	967	18.9	25.4	0.1	2.1	22	3.0
Subtotal	**5.5**	**7.0**	**6.5**	**301**	**420**	**471**	**23.1**	**29.0**	**1.3**	**2.2**	**2 314**	

Least developed country	Gross domestic product: Average annual growth of GDP in constant US$ (percentage) 1995-2000	2000-2005	2007	Per capita GDP in constant US$ 2006	2007	Per capita GDP in current US$ 2007	Gross fixed capital formation as a percentage of GDP 2000	2007	Foreign direct investment, net inflows, percentage of GDP 2000	2007	Population: Total (thousands) 2007	Growth, per cent per year 2007
Pacific												
Kiribati	9.2	1.3	2.2	536		762	46.7	73.9	37.7	15.8	..	..
Samoa	4.1	4.3	4.4	814	1 021	2 750	13.9	8.9	-0.7	3.2	0.2	1.1
Solomon Islands	-2.6	1.5	6.4	557	567	978	18.2	18.9	0.4	8.8	0.5	2.5
Tuvalu	1.8	7.2	—	1 200	..	2 811	58.3	64.7	-7.5	5.9	..	..
Vanuatu	3.1	0.9	4.9	1 174	1 142	1 995	34.1	32.6	8.3	7.5	0.2	2.3
Subtotal	**1.3**	**2.1**	**5.0**	**748**	**872**	**1 595**	**25.3**	**25.0**	**4.2**	**6.8**	**0.9**	
Latin America and the Caribbean												
Haiti	2.1	-0.5	3.2	275	252	612	16.7	23.2	0.4	1.3	10	1.6
Total	**5.3**	**6.8**	**8.1**	**326**	**445**	**505**	**16.0**	**27.0**	**2.2**	**3.1**	**2 827**	**2.4**

Sources: United Nations Statistics Division, *National Accounts Main Aggregates Database*, http://unstats.un.org/unsd/snaama/introduction.asp (accessed on 10 February 2009); calculations by United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; *Foreign Direct Investment database*, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), at www.unctad.org/Templates/Page.asp?intItemID=1923 (accessed on 1 May 2009); UNCTAD Central Statistics and Information Retrieval Branch; and United Nations Population Division, *World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision*.

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Table 11
Communications

Least developed country	Permanent and mobile post offices per 100,000 population		Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population						Internet users per 100 population	
			Main lines		Cellular		Total			
	2000	2007	2000	2007	2003/04	2007	2003/04	2007	2004	2007
Africa										
Angola	57	57	0.5	0.6	6.7	29	7.2	29.7	0.5	2.9
Benin	176	171	0.8	1.23	3.4	21	4.2	22.3	1.1	1.7
Burkina Faso	70	77	0.5	0.70	3.0	11	3.4	11.6	0.4	0.6
Burundi	28	45	0.3	0.45	0.9	3	1.2	3.7	0.3	0.8
Central African Republic	33	24	0.3	0.29	1.5	3	1.8	3.3	0.2	0.3
Chad	44	42	0.1	0.13	1.4	9	1.5	8.6	0.4	0.6
Comoros	27	24	1.0	2.33	0.3	5	1.2	7.1	1.0	2.6
Democratic Rep. of the Congo	497	126	—	0.01	1.9	10.5	1.9	10.5	0.2	0.4
Djibouti	11	7	1.5	1.36	3.4	5.6	5.0	7.0	1.2	1.4
Equatorial Guinea	..	7	1.4	1.99	11.0	43.4	12.3	45.4	1.0	1.6
Eritrea	60	70	0.8	0.77	0.5	1.7	1.3	2.5	1.2	2.5
Ethiopia	552	1 021	0.4	1.06	0.3	1.5	0.6	2.6	0.2	0.4
Gambia	..	..	2.7	4.47	12.0	46.8	14.6	51.3	3.3	5.9
Guinea	61	85	0.3	0.53	1.4	21.3	1.8	21.8	0.5	0.5
Guinea-Bissau	30	13	0.9	0.27	0.1	17.5	1.0	17.8	1.7	2.3
Lesotho	154	..	1.2	2.97	8.8	22.7	10.1	25.7	2.4	3.5
Liberia	19	20	0.2	0.05	1.4	15.0	1.6	15.1	—	0.5
Madagascar	1 163	728	0.3	0.68	1.9	11.3	2.2	12.0	0.5	0.6
Malawi	322	333	0.5	1.26	1.8	7.6	2.3	8.9	0.4	1.0
Mali	..	83	0.4	0.65	3.6	20.6	4.0	21.3	0.4	0.8
Mauritania	..	30	0.7	1.29	17.5	41.6	18.3	42.9	0.5	0.9
Mozambique	360	..	0.5	0.33	3.7	15.4	4.2	15.7	0.7	0.9
Niger	51	44	0.2	0.17	1.2	6.3	1.4	6.5	0.2	0.3
Rwanda	18	23	0.2	0.24	1.6	6.5	1.9	6.7	0.4	1.1
Sao Tome and Principe	..	5	3.3	4.86	3.2	19.1	6.5	24.0	13.1	14.6
Senegal	132	167	2.2	2.17	9.9	29.3	12.1	31.5	4.2	6.6
Sierra Leone	69	45	0.4	..	2.3	13.2	2.7	13.2	0.2	0.2
Somalia	..	..	0.4	1.15	4.2	6.9	4.5	8.1	1.1	1.1
Sudan	347	177	1.2	0.90	3.0	21.3	4.3	22.2	0.8	9.1
Togo	50	..	0.9	1.51	4.4	18.1	5.3	19.6	3.7	5.1
Uganda	316	276	0.3	0.53	4.4	13.6	4.6	14.1	0.7	1.0
United Republic of Tanzania	434	392	0.5	0.40	4.4	20.6	4.9	21.0	0.9	2.5
Zambia	225	223	0.8	0.77	2.8	22.1	3.5	22.9	2.0	5.0

Least developed country	Permanent and mobile post offices per 100,000 population		Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population						Internet users per 100 population	
			Main lines		Cellular		Total			
	2000	2007	2000	2007	2003/04	2007	2003/04	2007	2004	2007
Asia										
Afghanistan	385	460	0.1	0.30	2.4	17.2	2.5	17.5	0.1	1.8
Bangladesh	..	9 892	0.4	0.75	2.9	21.7	3.3	22.5	0.2	0.3
Bhutan	..	90	2.2	3.43	0.8	17.2	2.9	20.6	0.9	4.6
Cambodia	143	81	0.2	0.26	3.5	17.9	3.8	18.2	0.3	0.5
Lao People's Democratic Rep.	166	327	0.8	1.62	3.5	25.2	4.3	26.8	0.4	1.7
Maldives	202	216	9.1	10.82	34.5	102.6	43.6	113.4	5.8	10.8
Myanmar	1 293	1 363	0.5	1.45	0.2	0.6	0.7	2.1	0.1	0.1
Nepal	4 012	..	1.2	2.49	0.7	11.5	1.9	14.0	0.7	1.4
Timor-Leste	..	9	..	0.21	..	6.8	..	7.0	..	0.1
Yemen	270	309	1.9	4.47	5.2	13.8	7.1	18.3	0.9	1.4
Pacific										
Kiribati	..	..	4.0	..	0.6	..	4.6	..	2.4	..
Samoa	35	..	4.9	10.54	5.8	45.9	10.6	56.4	3.3	4.5
Solomon Islands	139	24	1.8	1.55	0.3	2.2	2.1	3.8	0.6	1.8
Tuvalu	..	..	7.0	..	—	..	7.0	..	..	..
Vanuatu	9	60	3.5	3.90	4.8	11.5	8.3	15.4	3.5	7.5
Latin America and the Caribbean										
Haiti	88	..	0.9	1.13	4.7	26.1	5.6	27.2	5.9	10.4

Sources: Universal Postal Union, *Postal Statistics Database*, at http://www.upu.org (accessed on 21 April 2009); International Telecommunication Union, Country data by region (online) and *World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators*, at http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/icteye/Indicators/Indicators.aspx (accessed on 21 April 2009).

Table 12
Developed country trade barriers faced by exports from the least developed countries, 2000-2007

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Percentage of exports from LDCs admitted duty-free (excluding arms and oil)	70	71	74	78	80	80	79	80
Average tariffs on:								
– Agricultural exports from LDCs	3.7	2.7	2.8	2.8	3.2	3.1	2.8	2.1
– Textile exports from LDCs	6.5	6.6	6.0	5.8	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.0
– Clothing exports from LDCs	7.8	7.7	7.4	7.0	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4
Duty-free access								
Most-favoured nation	34.9	30.4	31.3	29.3	29.1	31.4	26.4	28.0
Preferential	35.0	40.3	42.6	48.2	51.2	49.0	52.7	51.9
Total	**69.8**	**70.7**	**73.9**	**77.5**	**80.3**	**80.4**	**79.1**	**79.8**

Source: Millennium Development Goals Indicators (available at http://mdgs.un.org), based on data from the World Trade Organization.

Table 13
Official development assistance to least developed countries, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/ Development Assistance Committee donors

	Net disbursements								
	1996-1997			2006			2007		
Country	US$ million	% of donor total	% of donor GNI	US$ million	% of donor total	% of donor GNI	US$ million	% of donor total	% of donor GNI
Australia	198	19	0.05	528	25	0.07	688	26	0.08
Austria	111	22	0.05	253	17	0.08	255	14	0.07
Belgium	224	27	0.09	733	37	0.19	779	40	0.17
Canada	401	21	0.07	1 287	35	0.10	1 564	38	0.11
Denmark	541	32	0.32	899	40	0.32	1 080	42	0.34
Finland	108	27	0.09	308	37	0.15	367	37	0.15
France	1 549	23	0.10	2 668	25	0.12	2 974	30	0.11
Germany	1 455	22	0.06	2 672	26	0.09	3 037	25	0.09
Greece	14	8	0.01	105	25	0.04	112	22	0.04
Ireland	83	46	0.14	537	53	0.28	608	51	0.28
Italy	417	23	0.04	804	22	0.04	1 312	33	0.06
Japan	1 662	18	0.04	3 401	31	0.08	2 531	33	0.06
Luxembourg	21	24	0.12	114	39	0.35	147	39	0.36
Netherlands	865	28	0.23	1 414	26	0.21	1 813	29	0.24
New Zealand	31	23	0.05	76	29	0.08	84	26	0.07
Norway	533	41	0.34	1 159	39	0.35	1 325	36	0.34
Portugal	143	61	0.14	194	49	0.10	207	44	0.10
Spain	171	14	0.03	797	21	0.07	1 125	22	0.08
Sweden	555	30	0.24	1 180	30	0.31	1 362	31	0.29
Switzerland	312	32	0.11	460	28	0.11	489	29	0.11
United Kingdom	830	25	0.07	3 896	31	0.16	4 028	41	0.15
United States	1 330	16	0.02	6 498	28	0.05	6 092	28	0.04
Total	**11 552**	**22**	**0.05**	**29 983**	**29**	**0.09**	**31 976**	**31**	**0.09**

Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Development Assistance Committee, *OECD Journal on Development: Development Cooperation Report 2009* (Paris, 2009), table 31.

Table 14
Debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, and public and publicly guaranteed external debt service

	Least developed countries in Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and debt relief status							
	HIPC status		*Debt relief, US$ million*				*External debt service ratio (percentage)*[c]	
			February 2008		*February 2009*[b]			
Least developed country	*Pre-decision*	*Post-completion*	*World Bank*[a]	*IMF*	*Total HIPC*	*MDRI*	*2000*	*2006*	*2007*
Africa									
Angola			..	..	..	..	20.7	13.6	10.2
Benin		x	53	20	366	604	11.9	7.0	..
Burkina Faso		x	181	46	772	603	14.9	..	..
Burundi		x	30	0	908	53	39.4	39.9	42.6
Central African Republic	x		..	..	611	..	..	..	..
Chad	x		41	9	227	..	..	..	..
Comoros			..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Democratic Rep. of the Congo	x		386	3	7 636	..	..	..	..
Djibouti			..	..	..	..	6.2	6.4	..
Equatorial Guinea			..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Eritrea			..	..	..	..	3.1	..	..
Ethiopia		x	213	47	2 575	1 458	13.0	6.8	4.1
Gambia		x	12	0	93	199	9.9	12.4	12.4
Guinea	x		79	5	761	..	20.4	..	13.1
Guinea-Bissau	x		35	1	581	..	..	..	..
Lesotho			..	..	..	..	11.3	3.9	7.0
Liberia	x		..	..	2 845	..	..	0.2	111.6
Madagascar		x	112	16	1 167	1 292	9.7	..	..
Malawi		x	130	37	1 310	705	13.4	..	..
Mali		x	140	49	752	1 043	12.8	4.4	..
Mauritania		x	49	38	868	450	..	..	..
Mozambique		x	553	108	2 992	1 057	12.5	1.8	1.3
Niger		x	79	34	899	519	7.7	26.6	..
Rwanda		x	102	51	908	225	24.1	9.7	3.2
Sao Tome and Principe		x	8	..	163	26	25.8	39.1	39.2
Senegal		x	103	38	682	1 374	14.3	5.8	..
Sierra Leone		x	40	107	857	352	67.1	8.7	2.5
Somalia			..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sudan			..	..	..	..	9.7	4.1	3.3
Togo		x	..	..	270	..	6.3	2.4	..
Uganda		x	381	122	1 434	1 805	7.8	4.8	2.1

Least developed country	Least developed countries in Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and debt relief status: HIPC status: Pre-decision	HIPC status: Post-completion	Debt relief, US$ million: February 2008: World Bank[a]	February 2008: IMF	February 2009[b]: Total HIPC	February 2009[b]: MDRI	External debt service ratio (percentage)[c]: 2000	2006	2007
United Republic of Tanzania		x	334	96	2 828	2 038	12.8	3.2	2.5
Zambia		x	178	508	3 489	1 632	20.8	3.8	2.5
Asia									
Afghanistan	x		..	..	571	..	..	..	..
Bangladesh			..	..	..	..	8.6	3.8	3.9
Bhutan			..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cambodia			..	..	..	..	1.6	..	..
Lao People's Democratic Rep.			..	..	..	..	7.9	19.5	18.9
Maldives			..	..	..	..	4.3	4.4	5.1
Myanmar			..	..	..	..	3.9	1.7	..
Nepal			..	..	..	..	6.9	5.1	4.5
Timor-Leste			..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yemen			..	..	..	..	4.5	2.4	2.7
Pacific									
Kiribati			..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Samoa			..	..	..	..	..	19.7	26.9
Solomon Islands			..	..	..	..	7.1	2.0	..
Tuvalu			..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vanuatu			..	..	..	..	1.0	1.7	1.5
Latin America and the Caribbean									
Haiti	x		1	0	147	..		3.4	4.7
Least developed countries	8	19	3 237	1 335	36 712	15 435			

[a] Net present value, end-2007 dollars.
[b] Net present value, end-2008 dollars.
[c] External debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services and income abroad.

Sources: World Bank, *World Development Indicators 09* (Washington, D.C., 2009), tables 1.4 and 6.9, and *World Development Indicators and Global Development Forum Online*, at http://www.worldbank.org (accessed on 15 April 2009).

Table 15
Improved water and sanitation

	Percentage of population with improved access to drinking water				*Percentage of population with improved access to sanitation*				*Urban and rural population*			
									Percentage urban		*Annual growth rate (percentage)*	
	Urban		*Rural*		*Urban*		*Rural*				*Urban*	*Rural*
Least developed country	*2000*	*2006*	*2000*	*2006*	*2000*	*2006*	*2000*	*2006*	*1995*	*2010*	*2005-2010*	*2005-2010*
Africa												
Angola	49	62	39	39	67	79	13	16	44	59	4.4	0.7
Benin	76	78	57	57	51	59	8	11	37	42	4.0	2.3
Burkina Faso	83	97	51	66	33	41	4	6	15	20	5.0	2.4
Burundi	89	84	69	70	43	44	42	41	7	11	6.8	3.6
Central African Republic	85	90	49	51	32	40	16	25	37	39	2.3	1.5
Chad	46	71	30	40	21	23	3	4	22	28	4.7	2.2
Comoros	93	91	85	81	42	49	22	26	28	28	2.7	2.4
Democratic Rep. of the Congo	85	82	28	29	45	42	17	25	28	35	5.1	2.3
Djibouti	88	98	61	54	76	76	11	11	79	88	2.2	−1.4
Equatorial Guinea	45	45	42	42	60	60	46	46	39	40	2.8	2.1
Eritrea	70	74	50	57	16	14	2	3	17	22	5.4	2.7
Ethiopia	87	96	19	31	24	27	4	8	14	18	4.3	2.2
Gambia	95	91	77	81	49	50	49	55	44	58	4.2	0.7
Guinea	84	91	50	59	28	33	11	12	30	35	3.5	1.4
Guinea-Bissau	79	82	49	47	48	48	22	26	30	30	3.3	2.9
Lesotho	93	93	74	74	43	43	32	34	17	27	3.5	−0.3
Liberia	75	72	49	52	51	49	10	7	50	62	5.7	2.8
Madagascar	78	76	33	36	17	18	9	10	26	30	3.8	2.2
Malawi	94	96	58	72	51	51	56	62	13	20	5.2	2.0
Mali	74	86	42	48	57	59	36	39	26	33	4.8	2.2
Mauritania	52	70	48	54	39	44	11	10	40	41	3.0	2.2
Mozambique	77	71	25	26	51	53	16	19	26	38	0.7	0.4
Niger	79	91	34	32	23	27	2	3	16	17	4.0	3.4
Rwanda	86	82	62	61	33	34	24	20	8	19	4.2	2.4
Sao Tome and Principe	89	88	73	83	28	29	15	18	49	62	3.0	−0.5

Least developed country	Percentage of population with improved access to drinking water				Percentage of population with improved access to sanitation				Urban and rural population			
	Urban		Rural		Urban		Rural		Percentage urban		Annual growth rate (percentage)	
	2000	2006	2000	2006	2000	2006	2000	2006	1995	2010	Urban 2005-2010	Rural 2005-2010
Senegal	92	93	59	65	53	54	9	9	40	43	3.1	2.0
Sierra Leone	75	83	46	32	21	20	6	5	34	38	2.9	1.5
Somalia	36	63	17	10	44	51	10	7	31	37	4.2	2.2
Sudan	79	78	63	64	51	50	24	24	31	45	4.3	0.7
Togo	83	86	39	40	24	24	5	3	33	43	4.3	1.5
Uganda	85	90	52	60	28	29	32	34	12	13	4.4	3.1
United Republic of Tanzania	84	81	44	46	31	31	35	34	21	26	4.2	1.9
Zambia	89	90	36	41	53	55	47	51	37	36	2.3	1.7
Asia												
Afghanistan	37	37	17	17	43	45	27	25	20	25	5.4	3.4
Bangladesh	86	85	77	78	51	48	26	32	22	28	3.5	1.0
Bhutan	98	98	79	79	71	71	50	50	21	37	4.9	-0.3
Cambodia	60	80	33	61	51	62	9	19	14	23	..	..
Lao People's Democratic Rep.	76	86	39	53	57	87	14	38	17	33	5.6	0.1
Maldives	99	98	82	76	100	100	42	42	26	41	5.3	-0.3
Myanmar	83	80	66	80	74	85	53	81	26	34	2.9	-0.1
Nepal	95	94	81	88	42	45	17	24	11	18	4.9	1.4
Timor-Leste	77	77	56	56	64	64	32	32	23	28	5.0	2.9
Yemen	77	68	67	65	84	88	24	30	24	32	4.9	2.2
Pacific												
Kiribati	77	77	50	53	43	46	20	20	36	44	1.8	1.4
Samoa	92	90	88	87	100	100	100	100	22	23	1.7	0.6
Solomon Islands	94	94	65	65	98	98	18	18	15	19	4.1	1.9
Tuvalu	94	94	91	92	90	93	81	84	44	50	1.3	-0.5
Vanuatu	86	..	52	..	78	..	42	..	20	26	4.1	1.8
Latin America and the Caribbean												
Haiti	67	70	50	51	38	29	16	12	33	50	4.5	-1.0

Sources: United Nations Children's Fund and World Health Organization, *Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation: Special Focus on Sanitation* (Geneva and New York, 2008); and United Nations Population Division, *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2007 Revision* (http://esa.un.org/unup/index.asp).

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Table 16
Transportation

Least developed country	Roads				Railways			Air transport			
	Total road network (km)		Paved roads (percentage)		Route (km)	Freight (mil. ton-km)		Departures (thousands)		Air freight (mil. ton-km)	
	2000	2003/07	2000	2003/07	2000/07	2000	2006/07	2000	2006/07	2000	2006/07
Africa											
Angola	51 429	..	10	..	..	..	..	4.4	5.3	61.0	73.0
Benin	..	19 000	..	19	..	..	..	1.5	..	12.0	..
Burkina Faso	..	92 495	..	4	..	..	..	3.4	1.6	12.0	—
Burundi	14 480	12 322	7	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Central African Republic	24 307	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chad	33 400	40 000	1	..	..	..	..	1.5	..	12.0	..
Comoros	880	..	77	..	..	..	..	1.5	..	12.0	..
Democratic Rep. of the Congo	157 000	153 497	..	2	3 641	513	331	..	..	..	..
Djibouti	3 065	..	45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Equatorial Guinea	2 880	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Eritrea	4 010	..	22	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ethiopia	29 571	42 429	12	13	..	..	..	26.6	37.5	78.0	160.0
Gambia	2 700	3 742	35	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Guinea	30 500	44 348	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Guinea-Bissau	..	..	28	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lesotho	5 940	..	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Liberia	10 600	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Madagascar	49 827	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malawi	..	15 451	..	45	710	87	38	20.5	37.3	27.3	24.0
Mali	15 100	18 709	12	18	733	279	189	4.8	5.9	0.8	1.0
Mauritania	7 660	11 066	11	27	..	..	..	1.5	1.5	12.3	..
Mozambique	30 400	..	19	..	..	..	..	3.8	1.8	12.5	—
Niger	14 658	18 550	26	21	..	..	..	6.7	10.8	7.2	6.0
Rwanda	12 000	14 008	8	19	..	..	..	1.5	..	12.3	..
Sao Tome and Principe	320	..	68	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Senegal	14 583	13 576	29	29	906	371	384	1.1	1.4	—	—
								2.4	—	12.3	—

Least developed country	Roads				Railways			Air transport			
	Total road network (km)		Paved roads (percentage)		Route (km)	Freight (mil. ton-km)		Departures (thousands)		Air freight (mil. ton-km)	
	2000	2003-07	2000	2003-07	2000-07	2000	2005-07	2000	2006-07	2000	2006-07
Sierra Leone	11 330	..	8	..	..	..	..	0.2	..	9.0	9.6
Somalia	22 100	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sudan	11 900	..	36	..	5 478	1 164	766	7.8	9.4	36.5	46.0
Togo	7 520	..	32	..	..	..	..	1.5	..	12.3	..
Uganda	..	70 746	..	23	259	210	218	0.3	..	20.7	34.0
United Republic of Tanzania	88 200	78 791	4	9	4 460	1 990	728	6.0	5.5	3.4	1.0
Zambia	66 781	..	22	..	1 273	..	..	6.1	6.4	—	—
Asia											
Afghanistan	21 000	42 150	13	29	..	..	..	3.4	..	7.8	..
Bangladesh	207 485	239 226	10	10	2 855	777	817	6.3	11.1	193.9	89.0
Bhutan	..	8 050	..	62	..	..	..	1.1	2.6	—	—
Cambodia	..	38 257	..	6	650	92	..	..	4.3	..	2.0
Lao People's Democratic Rep.	21 716	29 811	14	14	..	..	..	6.4	10.0	1.7	2.5
Maldives	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6.9	5.1	13.2	—
Myanmar	27 966	27 000	11	12	..	..	..	10.3	29.2	0.8	2.8
Nepal	13 223	17 280	31	57	..	..	..	12.1	6.9	17.0	8.0
Timor-Leste	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yemen	65 144	71 300	16	9	..	..	..	14.6	14.4	32.0	41.0
Pacific											
Kiribati	670	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Samoa	2 337	..	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Solomon Islands	1 391	..	2	..	..	..	..	10.9	12.7	2.2	1.9
Tuvalu	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.5	13.6	1.0	0.8
Vanuatu	1 070	..	24	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Latin America and the Caribbean											
Haiti	4 160	..	24	..	..	..	..	1.4	1.6	1.8	2.0

Sources: World Bank, *World Development Indicators 09* (Washington, D.C., 2009), table 5.9, and *WDI and GDF Online*, http://www.worldbank.org, accessed on 23 April 2009. Compiled by the World Bank from data of the International Road Federation, the World Bank and the International Civil Aviation Organization.

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